
REMARKES
ON THE
Humours and Conversations
OF THE
GALLANTS
OF THE
TOWN.

The second Edition Corrected
and Enlarged, in some further
*Reflections on Marriage, and the
Poetick Discipline.*

Two Letters
By a Person of Quality.

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WEMAR QUEER
ON THE

GALLANTS

OF THE

TOWN

THE TOWN OF WEMAR QUEER
AND THE TOWN OF GALLANTS
AND THE TOWN OF TOWN

By a Person of Quality

THE TOWN OF WEMAR QUEER
AND THE TOWN OF GALLANTS
AND THE TOWN OF TOWN

To the Reader.



TO THE READER.



How hast often, without doubt Reader, heard of a sort of despised Animals, call'd Country-Gentleman: If thou frequentest the Play-house, thou hast there seen as brought in with a high-crown'd Hat, a Sword put through the Waist-band of our Breeches, and a pair of Antick Tops; where

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To the Reader.

we take stand, whilst the Learned man of Humours practises upon us with his sleights, and intrigues. And if thou usest the company of the Wits, thou knowest that we furnish them with their most pleasant Entertainment. Nay, if the Poet, out of an excess of his Bounty, is inclin'd to refresh the Company with an extraordinary treat of Humours, we are the men with whom he composes the Regalio; when he swells and looks big, to see the success of his Victorious Stratagems. We should be glad that our Masters the Poets can make use of us, considering our unpolish'd and rough capacities; but

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To the Reader.

in the mean time, they must take it kindly from us, if we advise some of them also, to look well to their own glory, and to appear less ridiculous themselves, lest they should become the Scorn of their own Vassals. They cannot take it ill from us, if we desire a little to pry into those admirable things for which they are so much admired; the humour of our Climate Abandons that Eastern State, of demanding Adoration to Powers wrapt in Clouds. We have taken the boldness to approach the Heroes, and to Examine their Genius; which in many of them, we find not only the most Wild and Extravagant, but

To the Reader.

the most Idle and Trifling that
 ever bestrid an Age. And cer-
 tainly either Historians have been
 much to blame, in recommending
 to us a pompous Name of Virtue
 Glory, and Renown, acquired by
 our Ancestors, making that ap-
 pear noble and useful to mankind
 which was dull and rude, or else
 their Children have nothing in
 them worthy of their Fathers.
 In things so different and unlike
 either they, or we must strangely
 have miscarried; and this we
 must say in favour of those that
 liv'd before us, that what they
 did was Gravely and Silently
 but the Acquisits of this Age
 are made with a strange Affection for

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To the Reader.

and Noise; our smallest performances creating in us more pride, than their mighty Achievements did in them, and Swelling us to a Contempt of all those who are not at leisure to appear as Ridiculous as to our selves. The following Paper cannot be accused of doing Injustice to any, since all are obliged to give the liberty they take: And as for the rest, since it do's not reflect on particular men, the Author might with reason expect that good Nature from them, which they extend to Comical entertainments; all are content to be taken to pieces in a Play-house; and to be exhibited for Divertisement on the Stage;

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To the Reader.

which are much unkindier reflections than are made in this Paper. Besides, since we have to do with nothing but Blemishes and Errors, the Laws of Writing allow those to be insisted on, for the Admonishing of others. What could be done less to reckon up the ordinary Follies of the Town life, to a Person who we desire should value the Innocence and Manliness of a Country one. We have too great a Kindness for our Relations, to desire that they should that way aspire to be Heroes; but that they should rather reserve themselves for fairer occasions of acquiring glory. On rural Affairs, and Innocence
afford

To the Reader.

afford us that Employment, that we are not at leisure to mind the Towns Treatment of us; and if we might in the Country but be free from the Communication of their Vices, we should easily resign them all our pretences to their Renown and Pleasures: 'Tis not an Envy of their Grandures, transports us to make remarks on their way of Living, nor their Drolleries on us, that Excite us to Revenge, they are an unequal match for us to encounter; one Stab of a Sonnet, would be mortal to the little Sense we have acquired; and we only Remonstrate to others, and not presume to find Errours in such labour'd!

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To the Reader:

Editions of their great Capacities. And we besides, know the vanity of affronting the Darlings of Fawe; and we rather sit down with a Submission to the Capricio of her Phancy, than endeavour to Reclaime her Feminine Humour: We would prevent her from Aggrandizing any of our Friends with favour worse then Infamy; and we wish so well to her Heroes, that they may Triumph alone in their excess of Felicity: Yet if there should come a time that she might discard them, we desire not to stir into their Fortune; and only wish that they who next share in her esteem, may be the Authors

more

To the Reader.

more Benefits, and good Offices to Mankind, than her present Minions have been: But if she continues in the same humour, we cannot but pity those who come after us, that will through the Mists of so much Vanity, see less clearly the Glory and Renown of former Ages; and feel at a greater distance, a less force from that Emulation.

I do not speak this, as if the Town were not abundantly furnished with Persons of both Sexes, that are Excellent in their Generations both for Understanding, good Government, and Virtue; but still the^e fair Endowments are rather Blessings to them.

To the Reader.

themselves, then Examples to others, for they live private to their own Consciences, whereas Vice and Vanity walk bare-faced; and the Mode and Humour of the Times (how corrupted so ever) passeth for the Standard of Wit and good Company.



It was, Sir, both with
trouble and sur-
prize, that I recei-
ved from my Lady,
your resolutions of going to
spend some years in *London*; and
that, not only through the com-
passion I have, for the affliction
you will thereby bring to so
affectionate and tender a Mo-
ther; but also a real pity, to
see you expose qualities of so
much Innocence and Virtue,
to the ravenous and devouring
Vices of the Town. I know by
a long experience in that place
that

that the life of a young Gentleman, led there, is for the greater part Vicious, Sottish, and Prophane, and not only degenerated below the precepts of ancient gallantry and generosity; but beneath that prudence, sobriety, and discretion, which ought to be found in all who pretend to Man-hood. *England*, that first took its Vices from the bordering Nations has now out-done them; and by its over-apeing Humour, exceeded the pattern of its crimes; whilst *France* formerly esteemed the most fantastick Country of the Universe, has of late rescued it self from some

some of its Follies, and bequeath'd to us those Vices of which it is now grown ashamed, and we are become the more trifling and Effeminate Nation of the two, and the place you go to visit, is the Intoxicated and giddy head of all these Vanities. The Education you have hitherto had amongst your Friends, has been agreeable to the Ancient Precepts of Nobleness, Generosity, and Virtue, but when you come to the Town, you must be told that these things are set Formalities, and out of Mode, and not suitable to that careless and undesigning way

way of Living now in use, careless and undesigned with a witness ! Which owes its Epithites to the neglect of all Virtue, and the blind Impetnosity of Humour : Their way of Living is now removed out of the Road hedg'd in by the prudence and justice of our Ancestors ; and acknowledges no course Inglorious and Irregular : The admired Wit to which they pretend, and in which they so much triumph, is of so hot a mettle, that it has leap'd the Fence of Ages, and takes its wild career over all the Inclosures of the Universe ; and it is now on so fierce

fierce a speed, that where it will stop, even Astrology cannot assure us. Our Ancestors deserv'd the fame of a better management, who considered equally, their own satisfaction, and the good of the world, and in that practis'd a moderation, which freed humane Affairs from those inconveniencies and surfeits they suffer from their Children. To be serious and to be wise, was a Reputation great enough to them, and they coveted not the triumphs reap'd from the heights of Frenzy and Madness: The Town was then a place of better

ter Education, and its conversation was Manly, accomplished and innocent; and a Gallant then visiting the Countrey, came furnisht with something more excellent than a bundle of Sonnets, bringing with him, from the Fountain of the refinedst Conversation, a richness than was sung at the corner of every street: Yet this is the advantage they communicate to us now, affording us not only the knowledg of those trifling things, which we esteem our felicity to be without; whilst yet they are pleased to value themselves highly on such a sufficiency, and to despise

despise us for being defective
 in those accomplishments; and
 yet these Gentlemen thirst af-
 ter the fame of *Heroes*, and ex-
 traordinary men. The real ad-
 vantages then which you pro-
 pose to your self, Sir, are no-
 thing important in that sort of
 life, whilst the inconveniencies
 will be very considerable: It
 is necessary you should think
 on what you abandon in quit-
 ting the Countrey, which yet
 are advantageous things, if you
 will put your self to the trouble
 of reflecting on them.

You have just reason to be-
 lieve, and you have the vogue
 of the world, to concur with
 you

you in such an opinion; that all the Accomplishments of Woman-kind, are to be found in your excellent Mother; her great Wit, her Prudence, her port and manner of living, regarding her self, and her household most considerable. And though there is usually that awe impressed on us by the severity of Education, as makes us desire to spend our Youth far from our Parents, out of a love of Childish Liberty and Frolicks; yet my Ladies carriage to you, has still been attended with that sweetness, and prudence, as perfectly to overcome an unpleasant Obsequiousness.

usness in you : It is true her
 discretion would not permit
 her to indulge you in any vici-
 ous Liberties, like those fond
 and imprudent Mothers, who
 think they cannot shew their
 Love enough to an only Son,
 unless they comply with all
 their extravagancies, and con-
 sider them always as Children
 that must have their wills, so
 losing betimes that Authori-
 ty, and Respect, which the
 ill-educated Boy has never af-
 ter Grace enough to acknow-
 ledg : And then, like some
 sort of Lovers, they please
 themselves in their own kind-
 nels, and in supporting the
 neglects

neglects of their children, with
 a patience truly a reproach to
 their dignity and duty: My
 Lady has lov'd your accom-
 plishments in Virtue, and ex-
 cellent qualities too well, to
 permit you an extravagant Li-
 berty; but yet she did these
 things, with a sweetness and
 an air, that demonstrated at
 the same time the pleasure
 of her Conduct. She confi-
 dered that you were her only
 Son, but yet she did not from
 such a reflection, become pre-
 sently of the Opinion, that
 she could not appear Fond
 enough of you, nor with too
 much freedom let you know
 the

the pleasure she took in you ;
 but with greater Wisdom and
 Generosity, she thought it her
 duty, to endeavour to make
 appear in you, the Virtue and
 the Hopes of many Sons ;
 well knowing, that a wild
 Liberty (usually the effect of
 a declared fondness) would
 have been the Reproach of
 your Family and of her Con-
 duct. And that it would have
 been worse to have you live
 with so much Infamy, (what
 ever the Age may discourse to
 the contrary) than to bury
 you with the universal Com-
 passion and Grief, paid to the
 death of a hopeful Gentleman.

More-

Moreover she considered, that a Mother is a stranger assumed into a Family, and that she is on that score to discharge the trust she stands obliged in to that Race; she is not to Gratifie her particular Fondness, but to Govern her Self by the Glory and the Interest of a Name: So that any justice or severity in a Mother, is not to be looked upon as her peculiar Resentments, but her respect to that Duty she stands obliged to perform. I remind you of all this, Sir, because you are now arrived to an Age of consideration, and to invite you to reflect on the grand obligation

obligations you have to my
 Lady, for her manner of Edu-
 cating you, in which you
 will see a little ingratitude, in
 being opposite to her desires
 of keeping you with her;
 and let the Humourists of this Age
 talk what they please, of the
 height of Spirit, and the gal-
 lantry of despising the Regi-
 ment of a Mother; they must
 show us a greater Advantage
 they make of that Liberty,
 than in lying perpetually in
 Play-houses, Taverns, and
 Ware-houses, before we can
 agree to their extravagant de-
 sires: Neither is it my La-
 dy's fondness of keeping you
 on

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with

they adored no other light. They have introduced *Chymeras* then, and have exploded excellent Realities, who have dislodged braveries of Minds from the circles of Marriage; and with them they have rob'd the world of great advantages; of which I shall give you a prospect in this following Paper. To oblige mankind, by an obligation sacred, and unalter'd, to the affairs and interests of one Love, was an act of that prudence and wisdom against which none can justly dispute: They could with no equity, have rais'd a Title to more; since the Law

of nature proclaims that [*Love*
of one should be for one enough]
 and that **Sex** must have been
 left in a condition wholly base
 and mercenary, to have took
 the pay of every **Amour**; they
 would have set up a **Tyranny**
 in **Love**, which must have been
 the most cruel and insupporta-
 ble of all others, because exer-
 cised on the best interests of
 Life. Marriage puts the
 world into Discipline, and a
 happy government; inclose-
 ing the common injoyment,
 that none might lay claim to
 the portion of an other: had
 beauty, and the possession of
 that **Sex**, been left a prey to
 the

the Conquerour, and subject
to be borne away by the most
forceible courtships, mankind
must have ever dwelt jealous of
each other, proclaiming an
enmity against all the World;
and have judged their power al-
one, a sufficient defence: but
by the force of matrimoniall
Laws, and the allotments
made us from above, we live in
quiet and security with each o-
ther, who must else have stood
perpetually on our guard, and
secured what we had loved
from the wandering Lusts of
others, the world must have
been perpetually involved in
Quarrels; since Love is more
rest-

restless, and more impatient
 in Ambition: and whilst a
 charming object had many
 admirers, she must at last have
 yielded to the Conquerour;
 and not have gratified the pas-
 sion of the most deserving, but
 the most happy, being without
 the exercise of that Empire
 which **Halcion Lawes** had gave
 her, that must have been whol-
 ly lost amidst the animosities
 of Rivals. Or if mankind
 had been weariyed into a more
 friendly way of living, and
 yielded that to indifference,
 which they pretend would have
 been the effect of **Society**: yet
 all the world must have lost
 its

its **G**lory to preserve its **P**er-
 and like those despised **R**o-
 ons, who are therefore qu-
 because they bannish all things
 that would invite a **C**onqueror.
The use of excellent things
 must have been laid aside, and
 the **W**orld must have practised
 the wisdom of a prudent **C**on-
 sort, who disbands her beau-
 ties to cure the jealousies of a
Husband. And as the great
Cato urged the preserving of
Carriage, to keep up the vi-
 gour of the **R**oman virtue
 which would languish when
 had nothing to emulate; so
 such an indifference, must have
 yeilded up all things of a gen-
 erous

concernment. Most
 of bravery and glory,
 give a motive and originall
 without; and as we have
 that all Ages have
 plyed themselves to those
 that procured the es-
 and the reward, Vertue
 fadly fading, when it wants
 Sun-shine of applause and
 of emulation, and the showers of
 recompence; so no considera-
 of particular concern-
 ments in Love, and the study
 of appearing gratefull and
 accepted, had brought a great
 indolence on the world, then a
 present reflexion can readily
 discover, neither shall we assem-
 a

a thing at all unjust, to say
 that the world owes not in-
 considerable benefits to a virtue
Love; and that, not so much
 as it has brought upon its
 some so many **Hero's**, but
 so, as it made vigorous and
 strong the beginning of the
 virtue, which had possibly
 down wearied with small re-
 quirements, had it not been
 supported by a generous pas-
 sion: a truth that has found
 more excellent experiments
 than what are met with in foo-
 lish **Romances**. And while
 thus the excesses, and the in-
 difference had done the world
 equal prejudices, what could

more propitious to it, then
moderation and the mid-
way of Marriage? it re-
moves on one hand what is
violent, furious and Rapaci-
ous, and overcomes on the o-
ther a degenerate indiffe-
rence and sloath: and as it is
not our inclinations but their
irregularity that makes our
time, so every thing is hap-
py in its moderation: thus
the assistances of fire to the
passions of life are very
happy and necessary, it is on-
ly dreadfull when it growes
aruly; we saile with pleasure
in that Ocean, and trace its
winding bosome with remotest
wealth,

wealth, from which yet we
 an inundation. So Love
 served in happy bounds by
 institutions of Marriage;
 excellencies and advantages
 remain to the world, its ch
 dish and troublesome qualiti
 are cut off by Lawes: its ma
 tame and gentle, which wou
 else have devoured the faire
 concernments of the Univer
 should the world be without
 society of this govern'd Pass
 on, it might want a heate to
 gourate, and render service
 ble all its parts, which mu
 else have submitted to dull
 guishments, nothing then ap
 peares more just then Mar
 age

since the love it cuts off
 regulates, the world could
 have borne; and the love
 manages it cannot spare,
 without parting with the foun-
 dation of its best Affairs: nei-
 ther have any appeared dissatis-
 fied with this conduct, but on-
 ly the Bravo's, and Furiolo's
 Ages, who think that the
 satisfying of an ungovern'd
 appetite, is more important,
 than the being kind and oblig-
 ing to common nature; whilst
 only such politicks as their
 own, can make it be thought
 expedient to destroy the good
 of the whole, for the unreason-
 able satisfaction of some in par-
 ticular

ticular. The highest wisdom
 took the prospect of all the
Species, and established what
 was the benefit and the good of
 all; and not what might please
 the humour of some individuals,
 who starting up in particular
Generations, and making
 a noise amongst those with
 whom they lived, could yet
 with no Justice, reproach the
 prudence that governed the
Fathers; with which they were
 displeased, through the capriciousness
 of their own folly, and not the defect
 of the precept which like **Beds and Couches**
 are not to be accused, because
 they are uneasie to the **Sick** and
 distempered.

tempered. We have found
 how prejudiciall the small ex-
 periment they have made of
 this new way, has been to the
 world; they have practised on
 but a little while, but yet,
 these bold Empericks, they
 have so altered and spoild its
 constitution, that a long course
 of better experiments will
 hardly recover it; they have
 lost of their Skill and Dex-
 erity, but those inconveni-
 ences that they pretended sud-
 denly to remove, they have
 turned into an impetuous tor-
 rent of peccant Humours; and
 not former times who sub-
 mitted to the interests of Mar-
 riage,

riage, done more then they for
the prosperity and good of
the world, it had possible know
scantier Allowances of health
and tranquility: had the Ge
nius of the Universe be
fashioned by them, we might
hardly have seen produced
those monuments of Vertue
Glory and Nobleness, which
now are extant in those who
are like to do nothing but
satisfy their humour and ap
petite, and quarrel with those
things they cannot minde: and
the world ought to look up
at them as no other; but such
in Countries lying low, let
the Sea upon them, to drive

all the possessions of greatest
 value ; thinking such an ex-
 travagancy sufficiently recom-
 penced, by having thereby an
 opportunity, to row the small
 pieces of their fancies ,
 trimmed with the Flag and
 dingle of their Poetry, over the
 buried magnificencies and
 honours of their Fathers.

Marriage laid the founda-
 tion, and first principle of ci-
 vil Society ; it was a Yoake
 which the neck of innocence
 was not too soft and delicate ;
 and a condition governed by
 meriting vertue, had yet need
 of these allotments, as to the
 advantages and improvements

of Society. And now that
 Marriage appropriated, and
 the first proclaiming of
 and *Thine*; the Earth
 common, and the enjoyment
 of it had an undisturbed
 right; whilst the con-
 cements of the Bed were
 and separate; and even
 those measures, the most
 and decayed, there are
 the remains of this old in-
 stitution, which the new
 in jealousies, and a desire
 possess alone the fancy'd
 yects; and in all things
 we can allow that
 in the interests of our
 conquest, repine, and

has divided the portions of
 Earth & Sea & the Sun & Moon
 Marriage is against
 which it is the highest crime to
 complain of for it is an insti-
 tution and of such equal ab-
 undance. That condition
 through the Ages it has tra-
 velled & is often met with those
 iniquities and unkindnesses
 have made it suffer and lost
 respect. But if mankind
 could reassume that obsequi-
 ousness and deference which
 it ought to receive, we should
 find it again restored to all its
 former renown and veneration
 in that Institution like
 power, and its glory to the
 respect

respect is paid it, whilst every thing that is neglected, is by that scorn rendered cheap and contemptible ; and any dis-esteem which Marriage lyes under, is not from the inconveniencies that are found in it, but only arises from the incivility of those times that forbear to respect it: if **Persons** would study to do it Justice, we should find again with the same votary about it, and not like dethroned **Monarchs**, without its state and unattended. Some not generous as they ought, have put affronts upon Marriage, and a desire of their reputations,

ions, have produced in others
 the fellowship of their crime;
 refusing not at all to share in
 their Vices; so they might
 not participate of their glo-
 ry: these are the Factions ban-
 ning against Marriage, who
 with the memory of their
 fathers, that minded nobler
 things, can think of nothing
 better than the most disinge-
 nous and dishonourable di-
 stinctions. But I believe,
 have said enough to vindicate
 the justness of Marriage; and
 there is that in every mans
 mind that will assist the en-
 deavour.

As the principle which

continues nature, is of
 things the most excellent and
 generous, so that which makes
 the continuance happy and
 advantageous, must not be
 contemptible: the seeds of be-
 ing in other Creatures are
 powerfull, as *Lions* and *Tygers*
 who leave their young to in-
 their quitted beings, and
 Desarts where they govern
 The *Stag* communicates to
 Offspring his swiftness, and
 a long life, but the *Rational*
 beings are not only continued
 in their kind, but in the
 use and glory by the discipline
 of Marriage: and it has
 only perpetuated Generation
 -noo

with the advantage of Age & Experience but
 conveyed along with a succession
 of plea fulgors and the interests
 of the State; and not only laid the
 foundation of a solid and vigorous
 empire, but also a Sign of the
 States and a but a rendered
 them useful and profitable and
 excellent; it has given birth to
 successful and flourishing
 arts; and not only fixed
 their constellations, but also
 appointed the circles where
 they shed their influence; it
 has managed the high Mettle
 and fierceness of Wit, and
 made that system be governed
 with might and main, and
 usefully for them that used

ic. To this we owe the original and excellency of Learning, which has taught wisdom and civility to barbarous Nations ; whose wilder influence like that of Comets , has pointed nothing but ruine and disorder to the world, had it not rose in the circles of Marriage. He was once rocked in the Cradle, whose Philosophy and Science, after travelling to the confines of night and day ; who rising in the sphere of Marriage, shed a quiet influence, over all the Land and Water knew. An indulgent Mother in her first bound the tender head

famous Conquerour, who
 wore the Laurels of so
 many victoryes, conveying
 her milk and her careſſes,
 ſweetne's that charmed the
 ſenſe of his blood. Whilſt
 Ambition, Warr, and Diſ-
 ſenſes ſtill emptyed the worl'd,
 Marriage ſupplied it with
 new inhabitants, who took
 up, through the track of the
 ſame Education, the affairs
 and intereſts of their Fathers.
 When by the death of ſome
 excellent Perſon, mankind
 have been deprived of great
 advantages and bleſſings, ſome
 others have roſe up, and equal'd
 not excell'd the vertue of
their

their Fathers. When Com-
 munes have been widdowed
 drooped over the loss of an
 indulgent Prince, they have
 had restored in a successor
 the freshness of their wit-
 joyes: and the designs of a
 vast Empire, left in an imper-
 feet draught, has been im-
 proved by the succeeding
 hand with all the beauties and
 inberishments of Power.
 An increasing Nation, the
 ing too strait in narrow
 Regions, have under the con-
 duct of some Hero, sought
 more commodious places,
 whose generous designs have
 been to last perfected by
 suc-

Successors, as to become one
 of the fairest Empires of the
 world: and it has been found
 that mingling Nations, whose
 Lines have been perplexed
 with one another's, have
 never done any thing where
 to be renewed in those
 places that have suffered
 from, where they have not
 been distinguished and
 united their own blood, have
 silently lost the sense and
 the glory; which has
 been the title of blood, has been the
 great motive to the most Hev
 erick attachments; how
 the world behold and ad
 mire an invincible obstina
 cy

cy in the resolutions of the *Capuan*, because he could not betray the glory of a Roman: the respect and dignity of blood, is preserved nowhere but in the Channels of Marriage; and the Child only reveres the vertue of just Parent. The sence of glory, not bounded in those sacred Spheares, had wandered till it had spent its influence, and fallen short upon the Earth. Marriage holds the *Idea* nearer, and inbellish with that sence which makes it sacred; Emulation sees it a far off, and viewes it only with indifference, to which

the

Inclination is but fortui-
 -ous and uncertain; but we
 carry it in our bosome, when
 we have received it from our
 fathers.

He that looks upon the
 great Empires of the
 World, will find that they
 flourished then with greatest
 vigour, when they were most
 virtuous, and that their great-
 ness declined with their Mo-
 -rals: the Assyrian Empire
 was succeeded by the Persian;
 which by its strange Luxuries
 and Effeminacies, became
 easy a Prey to the armes of
Alexander, and by effeminate
ages, are no where meant
 the

the glorious, for the good
 over manly and gallant, and
 those that gave themselves
 to the dishonours of that. So
 when the *Persian* Empire was
 destroyed, he that put out
 light, was too careless of pro-
 serving his own; whose
 desires and a bold spirit, but
 all that was remarkable
 him, found not in his
 and his wantonness, the
 and I think of continuing
 what he had adopted by
 which means that power, be-
 ing left without support, be-
 came as I said, and
 respected by his
 and victorious
 and
 ministers,

traitors, soon laid it low a
 sharing of their Masters
 power, last they did of him
 necessities were only the
 fluere of a mad glory, few
 them leaving a name in
 power, who had yet the possi-
 bility to have done so much
 to acquire it. After this
 the Roman the best built
 and supposed to be of the
 greatest extent: spreading the
 wings of its dreadfull Eagles
 over the faces of the whole
 earth, being the noblest and
 most exact draught of Power
 that the memory of Man has
 known: its virtue was the
 most usefull and generous
 till its

its Arts the most pleasing and excellent, and its Spirit the most persevering and great that any times have shown that were barely Vertuous with its religious Respect amongst other things, Marriage, and by the gravity of its Morals, it stood a long succession, at once the terror and the delight of the world: all Nations, either courting its friendship or trembling at its Arms; but when it was governed by such Princes as Nero, and Caligula, it yeilded to those Vices from which it could never recover it self; but

little

and little declined, till
 greatness on which the
 had waited, and which
 had served, laid it self down
 gloriously in the languish-
 arms of Austria; where
 remains, with none of its
 many Qualities about it;
 though in the times of
 and Cesar, it suffered
 by Ambition, yet it
 then still a remedy to e-
 the disease; and whilst
 peace was boldly assaulted
 one Hero, it was as bravely
 ended by another: by which
 easily raised a confutation of
 vain opinion, who main-
 softness and effeminacy
 to

to be the great security
 of a Nations Peace since
 nothing can more discourage
 the attempts of the most
 full voracious against the peace
 of Kingdomes, then the
 reflection which it makes upon
 the vigour of those Re-
 qualifications. And in regard
 thereof the *Perse* whilst
 it had a divided Aeneid
 any Nation afflicted with
 which partition to its own
 strength though some of its
 employed as ungraciously
 against it: yet it always
 same time receives the
 of the others in acknowledgement
 of its own strength and

03

(245)

If we should quit this great
can? we have traced, and
a view of all the lesser
currents of opinion, that
we run through every Age,
shall find that Marriage
the Mountain from whence
flowed that Vortex, which
swirling and propitious to
us. But we will leave that
stream, and open a prospect
to the affairs of Learning,
which as it has rose in times
ancient and modern, to avoid
any receive respect and en-
couragement from the same ages:
philosophers governed re-
publics in Greece, but they
not only knew separation,
but

but their blood in the effeminate dayes of *Nero*. *Science* never took birth but in grave and prudent times, whilst the Scurrilous and wanton was ever esteemed in idle Ages. In those dayes, Poetry and the looseness of the Theater, the debauches, the excrements of Wit, were only valued and admired; and they received Elogies and Laurels, who invented new wayes of Debauchment, that could expresse themselves with the greatest smartness on Letchery and Extravagance: Wit and Beauty have ever shared one Fate

(47)

world ; when they are
happily espoused to noble
and illustrious Subjects ; or
are given up to prostitu-
tion and dishonour ; nei-
ther have the lustfull Ages of
the world dealt more barba-
rously with that blushing
modesty, then with this virgin
purity : and in how many
productions transmitted from
several times, shall we see the
most excellent and vigorous
Muses, prostituted to the
most base and detested Sub-
jects, which infelicity they
received from those times in
which they lived, and they
might have been more happy,
had

had they conversed with
 bler Theans. Thus the
 putation of Learning,
 excellent Arts have well
 declined for want of Estim
 tion; Whilst all apply
 themselves to those
 that procure the same and
 praise, nothing is finer the
 corruption of nature so pernicious
 and extravagant as VV
 neither has any thing done
 a world greater mischief
 as a quaker vi: it has put
 tions into flames, filled
 wounds the bosome of
 Church; whether it has
 sided in Camps; many
 designs in Courts; or has
 had

vorous in low-roofed Masters
 all which places, the
 world has felt the smart of its
 cruelty: it has sometimes ru-
 ined by boisterous and bloody
 actions; at others by softness
 and flatteries: it has wound
 itself into all Interests and
 Affairs; and when it is not
 committed to insult, to brave
 Vices and to manage important
 concerns; it conceales
 itself, by a peculiar subtilty
 and bashfulness, from whence
 unsuspected it ruins and de-
 stroys: but this quality,
 is pernicious and unruly,
 and becomes much more sober and
 full in the temperaments

D

of

of *Roman* bravery were
 inspired from the Stage ; for
 what memorable times, the
 glorious Eagles took the
 flights by the rules of a *Drama* :
 Such easier representation
 were then, (as *Farces* are
 now in *France*) for the *Romans*
 and *Plebeians*, whose ignorance
 made them incapable of
 spending more advantageously
 their vacations from the war.
 But the noble Youth were
 continually perfecting
 in the Fields, or in the other Affairs
 of the *Common-wealth*, the
 Characters of manly glory
 in which they acquired and
 exercised a *Virtue*, too
 10
 strong

strous and robust for the Poë-
 tick Pen to manage; and if
 any of them built magnificent
 Theatres, it was only to beg
 an admiration of their
 greatness amongst those, who
 were incapable of under-
 standing the advantages and
 dignity of their Virtue. And
 we remember moreover, that
 a great Captain was forced to
 shut up the Theatres of his
 Confederates, to oblige them
 to defend their Patrimories,
 which yet they did like men
 who had leard War from
 the Stage. And such things by
 the Witnesses of all Records,
 had never an Universal love
 and

and esteem, but in effeminate
and trifling Ages. But to look
nearer into their pretences; the
great thing in which they tri-
umph, is an Heroick Play
which yet is imperfect in the
Virtue of which they boast.
They have made the three
grand Characters of a Hero
to be Love, Honour, and
Friendship; but to what fan-
tastick heights they have raised
these is apparent in their Po-
ems. They have made Love
to be the hot passion of the
hour; tried by Chymaries
and odd experiments; unprac-
ticable to the World, and
rather an Idæa fit to misguide

the leisure and the sentiments
 of Youth, than capable of
 giving any just assistance to
 the occasions of Life; He that
 pretends to instruct, is not to
 celebrate the things that hap-
 pen, but the things that ought
 to be. Their Honour con-
 sists in an obstinacy, to com-
 bate Necessity and Time, in
 maintaining the fiery ground
 of Fame; to vanquish Rea-
 son and generosity in the con-
 cept of Life, gathering the
 spreading glory of a Hero into
 a single Puncilio. This is
 their Honour, as much Chy-
 mical as their Love. Neid
 is their Friendship dese-
 idle,

idle, whilst it consists in
 signing an adored Mistress
 in becoming the confidence
 Amours; or a Knight Errant
 pursuing the Capricio of
 other; a serving up the co-
 rage of a Friend to those fa-
 tastick heights, where we
 dare to perish with him;
 cannot imagine what
 World has to do with such
 Ideas, only proper for the
Elizium, so much the Idol
 their Poetry. Moreover, there
 is to be observed the confu-
 sion and defects in their Pre-
 cepts: no Poetick Love (ac-
 cording to the Rules of their
 own Art) can happen to
 He

lyro but once in his life, and
 for all the rest of his years he
 remains untaught, the Poet
 interposes critically whilst he
 has an Amour in his head, but
 he abandons him unworthily,
 when he should perfect the
 characters of highest glory:
 he teaches him to strut and
 bluster, and to speak half
 a dozen Verses when he dies,
 but he guides him not at all
 in the Labyrinths of difficult
 affairs. He tells him what is
 true Honour, on the fantasti-
 cal point he stands; but he
 cunningly omits to guide his
 mind on the bright traverses
 of a publick good. He is busy
 about

about Youth, whilst the Regions of Manhood and of Age are left without a Path, any Track of Virtue and Reputation: When the Gallant weary of Living like a Beast when he has finished the Love and the Atheism of his youth the Poet has left a dark space before him, without the light of any precept or instruction. But all their *Heroes* must die when they are young, or live ingloriously when they have finished their youthful intrigues. Besides, were the Heroick Virtue perfect, could concern but a few persons in a Nation, whilst

The lesser Scholars must re-
 main untaught: What is left
 for them but the idle intrigues
 of Farce and Comedy; filled
 with Impertinences, and the
 most loathsome Vices; and
 if they pretend to instruct by
 this, it must be by the Rules
 of contrary: Certainly never
 any that undertook so impor-
 tant a Conduct, discharged it
 with less generosity and fide-
 lity. And in fine, if we may
 judge of the cause by the
 effect, we shall find that man-
 ner of censure very disadvan-
 tagious to their Art; where
 are the Heroes they have fa-
 shioned by their Precepts?
 What

What proofs doe we receive
 that Virtue with which they
 have inspired them? I wish
 we had no reason to complain
 of the contrary, and that the
 Grossness of their Dram
 ticque Vices were not a bur
 then heavie to the World
 instead of teaching them
 burn like *Heroes*, they have
 made them love like Beasts
 and all the industry of the
 Stage, has helpt them to
 thing more refin'd in that per
 sion, than what is common
 to the Goat, and the But
 Ye mighty Directors of our
 Virtues do ye not blush
 see the dulness of your Scholl

And I ment to find for
 such perversenets, in times
 when there flourish such able
 poets? Or You throw away
 your glorious Precepts, whilst
 you talk of Heroickness, to
 such impertinent and groveling
 Generation. Or is it, Sir, con-
 trary to their inclinations that
 they write Heroick Poems;
 whilst a Poetick fury carries
 them to celebrate those Idzas,
 which they repent of, and
 recount in a loose Comedy:
 and without doubt they as
 well understand the Capacity
 of the Age, as their own
 mourning in such Actions. If
 they did not, they would
 never

never talk so unprofitably
 them as they do, for the
 benefit are they like to receive
 from such trifling instructions,
 as correct writing without
 out the preposition at the end
 of a Verse, or the niceties of
 Grammar, as if a Hero were
 to speak with that exactness
 as if he stood in fear of a Final
 la. Moreover, what is it
 moment to the instruction of
 this Age, whether *Achilles* drew
 his Whinyard at *Agamemnon*
 or whether *Rina'da* endan-
 ger'd with his, the home-spun
 Breeches of *Godfrey of Boloigne*
 what does this signify to
 Practical Virtue of Gentle-
 men

When & Those who take upon
 them to form the Genius of
 an Age, are to consider what
 is useful, and like to occur,
 and they ought to decline
 ideas, that fly too high for
 practice and experience: such
 airy Perfections, like Ro-
 mances, may fill the Head
 with Chymæra's, but they can
 not be the Directors of Action,
 which is the Beauty and the
 Basis of Precepts. Besides;
 all prudent managers of pub-
 lic sentiments, are to con-
 sider, that in such Draughts
 they must Exhibit to after
 times, what they will admire
 and imitate, or what they
 will

will explode and scorn ; for
 he is too short sighted, who
 only accommodates his Pre-
 cepts, to the ease and the
 cious humour of an Age, and
 forms not that, which must
 dure the shock of an impar-
 and severe Posterity : And
 believe some of our Po-
 imagine that the inconveni-
 cies of their present instruc-
 ons, will be so sensibly pre-
 judicial to the next Age, as
 make them abhor the fa-
 Intrigues of this, who
 besides, have reason to mo-
 at those sleight draughts
 Virtue, and those airy
 perfections, which will
 exceed

exceeded by the least reality :
 If they say that this is not
 required from a Poet whose
 part is to please ; we answer,
 That it is from a Philosopher,
 and from those who pretend
 to direct whole Generations.
 And since they have raised
 their ambition to the universal
 Monarchy of wit, it becomes
 them to invent a Regiment,
 suitable to that Character ;
 and not expect with a few
 Poems to command all the
 Regions of Learning. Or is
 it not so much their desire to
 rule, as to destroy ? Is it their
 ambition, (like his that burnt
 the Temple of *Diana*) to be
 known

known the Authors of the
 ruine of those excellent principles which so many Ages have
 honoured and revered ; and
 proscribe all Virtue, Sobriety
 and antient honour ; as if a man
 were to Build his Reputation
 on the quicksands of vicious
 and inglorious practices ; con-
 sidering it a weakness worthy
 of reproach, to be moderately
 wicked, or to Boggle at
 Impiety, whose degrees are
 hardly to be matcht in Hell.
 Some there are who by such
 prodigious accomplishments
 having gotten great and ad-
 mired Names, become the
 Patrons, and Darlings of the
 Youth

Youth, who willingly Sacrifice their early Virtue, their Interests, and the repose of their Family, to their mighty Reputations ; and think it enough to make them wear the Title of wits for ever, if they but be admitted to drink, and swear, with their glorious Masters. But I now grow weary, Sir, of taking a farther account of such actions, which yet they have not more fail'd in, than in the principles of the best Prudence. And those who debauch and effeminate Nations, may be pleasing, but they can never be Wise and generous Directors : They ar-

gue strangely who affirm, that
 it is necessary for some time
 to be laid to sleep, free from
 the thoughts of Virtue and
 Glory, thereby to bury faction
 and Sedition; since nothing
 can be more the security and
 renown of just and excellent
 Princes, than the Manliness
 and Gallantry of their Sub-
 jects. Moreover, it is a dou-
 ble indiscretion, to soften and
 charm our Youth with Luxu-
 ries and Pleasures, so near the
 best grounded Ambition of
 Europe; degenerating the
 antient Virtue of the English
 whilst others are Brightning
 and Illustrating of theirs
 Thus

Thus to misguide so considerable a part of the Universe, only for the Fame of having the conduct, is what an excellent Poet has no reason to glory in; whom we must allow to excel in his way, though with no Justice to claim to his Art, the directing of Ages. Neither can I imagine, what should transport them to assume so painful a Dominion over all the Provinces of Learning; 'tis not agreeable to the delicacy of their living, to be troubled with the Affairs of so vast an Empire: They had better leave it to that Administration under which it

D 7

lies,

lies, then appropriate it as the
 task of that vivacity and fan-
 cy, which like the Gallique
 briskness is quickly tired. But
 I have kept you too long, Sir,
 in this consideration; I will
 lead you to the Conversation
 which is sometimes found
 amongst those persons, whose
 pretences are so haughty.
 And who live in great neglect
 of their own Ideas; contradic-
 tiding in their lives, what
 they magnifie and extol in
 their Poetry. I will not say
 it of that Person (whom I
 just now mentioned); but I
 can too truly affirm it of many
 of that Art.

The first great Subject of
 their Entertainments is A-
theism ; which is not now
 owned with a blush, but on
 the contrary, esteemed a piece
 of gallantry, and an effect of
 that extraordinary Wit in
 which we pretend to excel
 our Ancestors: The great prin-
 ciple of these Sentiments, is
 a matter of strange Opinion
 about the Creation of the
 World ; some following *Ari-*
stote, others *Epicurus*. Those
 who imagine that the World
 did never begin, have took
 the belief from the imperious
 Stagirite, rather out of an
 unknowing admiration of his
 D 5 name,

name, than any just reason that
 has accompanied the assertion
 on : For to what reason can
 it pretend, or how is it like
 that the World was Eternal
 when the memory of all
 things are but of Yesterday
 (for to Eternity, the finite
 portion of time Records
 merits no larger a name) how
 has it come to pass, that
 many thousands of Ages
 should leave no Records be-
 hind them, nor no Monuments
 of all they did, nor all that
 had design'd to do : the most
 ancient accounts that are pro-
 duced, except by the Jews
 are the *Thaban* War : and

great Funerals of Troy, (acti-
 ons of times easily compu-
 ted:) And which if they are
 not fabulous, they appear at
 least ridiculous in the Records
 of the Poets. But how is it
 likely, that Eternity should
 be the Parent of nothing more
 transient, nor more considera-
 ble in that vast flux of Ages,
 many great Empires must
 have rose, flourish'd, and de-
 clined; many useful and ex-
 cellent Arts must have been
 invented, and practis'd; and
 many just, as well as bloody
 Laws, must have been esta-
 blish'd and executed. Some
 man or other, in so many
 births,

births, must have been
 considerable for his Virtue
 and his grand Actions, as to
 leave at least his Name, for
 some dark stories of his deeds
 from one Age to another.
 Some Tyrant for Barbarous
 and Inhumane Cruelties, must
 have been so odious and
 much detested, as to have
 left a hateful Memory and
 Name to after times: But the
 good, and the bad, have been
 equally forgotten; and nei-
 ther Ambition, Greatness, Val-
 our, Riches, nor Beauty, but
 then the advantages they have
 since acquired, of perpetu-
 ating the Memory of their
 owners.

owners: This great silence of
 all things, but what stand so
 near the present Ages, as a
 most convincing proof of the
 Worlds Creation, and of its
 Creation not very long ago.
 The other Opinion, though
 is most Imbraced by this
 Generation, yet it is so Ridi-
 culous, that a man of Reason
 should be ashamed to own it,
 which affirms, that several
 Troops and Parties of Atoms,
 (tailed first by an unknown
 Commission) after they had
 rang'd the field of an infinite
 space, did at last under the
 conduct of Chance alone (for
 they allow no greater a cause
 to

to have commanded in the morning of the Universe, Rendezvous in a most glorious and beautiful World; that many pieces of such admirable Workmanship, so many Businesses, and so many Offices, of the Beginning, Maintenance, and Preservation of all the kinds of Life, had no other cause but an undesigned impetuous Chance: Yet this Opinion, as ridiculous as it is, is become the principle of their grandest Debauchments; on which they Discourse with so much Liberty and Bluntness; as is the annihilation of serious Persons.

But they equally hate that
 Modesty in Learning, which
 they do in Love; and they
 strive to have their Souls
 equally Debaucht as their Bo-
 dies; hazarding the one in
 all Opinions, as the other with
 all Exploits. A Virtuous
 person how ever ought to be
 careful of the innocence of his
 mind; lest there may, nay
 there will come a time, when
 he must want those tranquili-
 ties. Which is moreover, no
 slight Admonition for our
 Wits, especially since some of
 them (like *Caligula*) are Atheists
 only in fair weather. But all
 Their next great entertain-
 ment

ment is Marriage; which the
 treat most ingloriously, al-
 firming it to be the Clogg of
 generous minds; and the great-
 est Impediment to the ambi-
 tion of *Heroes*: They believe
 Mankind has suffered in no
 thing more, than in the Re-
 straints and Captivities of
 Wedlock; and that no free-
 dom ought to be more dear
 to his Nature, than wild and
 rambling Lusts. They think
 the World took ill advice
 when it abridged it self of
 sweet a pleasure, by yielding
 to an Institution, that so much
 dulls and baffles the Spirits
 and though they are them-
 selves

lives the issue of these Beds,
 but they cannot believe but
 their Constitution had been
 much more sprightly and ge-
 nerous, if they had been born
 in a Mistress; and that their
 Animations had been more
 elevated and high to great un-
 dertakings: They believe that
 without doubt, the Crescents
 of the *Ottomans*, had before
 now been filled up with blood,
 and slaughters, if there had
 been such a generation born
 to these parts of the World;
 and that their Arms had suc-
 ceeded as fortunately as those
 of the *Macedon*. What ever
 was the belief of their Fathers,
 they

they resolve to give the World
 the proofs of a better judg-
 ment, and a braver Spirit,
 which makes them scoff at
 Wedlock, priding themselves
 in their own freedom; and
 with a scornful pity, despising
 the Captives of that state,
 they esteem no man ridiculous
 in the Town, but the votary
 of Matrimony; and he who
 happens to be so of their own
 Fraternity, if he does not fly
 under that yoke, if he does not
 curse the folly of his Nature,
 that betrayed him to so great
 a slavery, they discard him as
 unfit for their Conversation.
 And indeed they have found
 persons

persons ridiculous enough to
 as they would have them ;
 whom they represent, that
 the slighting of the pleasures
 Marriage, is a greatness of
 soul, that scorns to be im-
 posed on ; but that the pursuing
 variety of Amours, is the pe-
 culiar Gusto of a great Wit :
 or that is a principle from
 which they must not recede,
 at all their Extravagancies,
 is not only the pleasing of
 their Humours, but in separa-
 te proofs of extraordinary
 capacities : They must believe
 that it was an effect of their
 skillfulness and Dexterity, to
 bring Wenching into so great
 an

an esteem, and that nothing
 less than their Industry and
 Arts, could have laid Ma-
 ny under so much
 proach, as the present Age
 does find it, this is their busi-
 ness, in their Conventicles,
 Play-House, and all their
 entertainments; where if they
 have occasion to represent
 the Gallants a Comical Fellow
 they make him one who is
 wheedled into Matrimony
 Vain and trifling Politician
 whom the World has so much
 reason to thank for the ad-
 vantages you procure it, what
 shall it do with your Ser-
 vants? Except unravel the
 riches

thest Imbroideries of anti-
 generosity and Prudence ;
 and make all its affairs as ridi-
 culous as your practices ; do
 you desire it should be so half-
 finished, as for your allurements
 betray the charge of so ma-
 ny Ages ? But yet, Sir, the
 progress they have already
 made is very deplorable ; the
 contempt of Wedlock in the
 town grows very common ;
 and we have reason to accuse
 the great Managers of that
 humour : They would do
 well to satisfy us, either what
 nobleness, what gratitude, or
 wisdom they can ascribe to
 their practices, they are very
 rude

rude and disobliging to a
 considerable part of the Universe
 and offer Mankind a great
 front. They are strange
 respectful to their Fathers
 who liv'd in an Age be-
 qualified; and who convey
 them hither in the circles
 that despised Wedlock: Had
 they not stood on the founda-
 tions of Blood, and Fortune
 but been forc'd to have
 by their Industry and Merit
 the World had possibly look'd
 upon them with contempt
 a low Sphere. And then
 do they discharge the Char-
 acter of wise managers? With-
 out doubt, Marriage is the
 foundation

foundation to times occur-
 and the principle of ex-
 lent affairs; and if this foun-
 should be fatally corrupt,
 would injure considerably,
 the advantages that flow
 from it: For if any Generati-
 should come into the
 World promiscuously, all
 things would be unsorted and
 mixt, and the claims of eno-
 med Virtue, Blood, and pos-
 sessions must be made unsuc-
 cessfully; all things must be-
 again, or yield to such a
 Disorder and Confusion, as
 would soon involve the most
 flourishing Nations in ruine
 and distractions. Thus what
 the

the Prudence and the Industry
 of many Ages, had form'd
 into a peaceful, and a happy
 Regiment, thereby rendering
 the Succession of Families
 Tranquil and Secure, would
 be broken and disordered, and
 the Parent can leave to his
 Children only the advantage
 of an uncertain condition
 and that Family that is
 Rich, Potent, and Esteem'd
 mixing its blood inconsiderately,
 loses insensibly those advantages;
 and he that would raise
 Monuments of excellencies
 things, must not only bestow
 anew, but leave them undisturb'd
 when he dies, if for

has club'd to the uncertain
 fate of a Harlot, yet they
 pretend no right in the
 Gratitude of their disputed
 fathers; and no Glory, Re-
 putation, and Virtue would
 be perfect, whilst it has only
 the assistances of one Age,
 and those discouraged by the
 consideration of their decay:
 Thus in the Ottoman Empire,
 whilst the greatest Minister
 has conveyed nothing to his
 Children, through all their
 successions, there remain no
 Monuments of antient Virtue,
 Greatness, or Power, whilst
 the Children are not permitted
 to inherit any of the Acquests
 E of

of their Fathers: And he that is took up to the highest place of Honour, and Command, considers not that he is to be himself suitable to the Family and Virtue of his Ancestors, nor that he is to leave the family dignities and reputation to his children, but he lives unjustly, carelessly, and voluptuously, and is only intent on his present satisfaction: And the same it would be in various injoinments, and the neglects of Marriage; from which appears the imprudence of those who pretend to instruct the young Age: And we have reason to believe, that either some extraordinary

extraordinary event must inter-
 pose to vindicate such excel-
 lent affairs, or else they are
 still to decline, till they min-
 gle Ruines with the Universe :
 Those, Sir, who think these
 Remarks trifling, consider not
 the strange progress of Vices ;
 for though it is chiefly
 amongst persons somewhat
 above the vulgar, that Marri-
 age is ingloriously treated, yet
 those distempers will descend
 from the noble parts, as fast
 as the capacities of instruments
 can convey them down : As
 we see it has been already in
 prodigious Swearing, and
 other Crimes. And were not

wisdom and Nobleness strangers to this Age; those who pretend to the fairest endowments of the mind, would never practise the greatest follies of it. I cannot imagine what they would do with the wild liberty they endeavour to introduce; 'tis a strong sort of leveling they wish to see in the World; and there needs great eloquence to make appear the Benefits it would receive from it: Hitherto we have dreaded it as a Torrent that would quite overflow the fairest Inclosures of Human Nature; and we cannot perceive their own Ability to

them that Tempest. But they
 care only for the present; and
 think not themselves at all ob-
 lig'd to look after the interests
 of the World. All that can
 be said to these men, is, that
 if their Fore-fathers had been
 of their Temper, they might
 now have been Barbets, or
 Grooms, or left to the Pa-
 rish, who pretend to fairer
 Titles.

The next great Subject of
 their Discourses, is the disho-
 nours of Women; those whom
 they have not overcome with
 their Addresses, they will be-
 lieve to Conquer with their
 Tongues; and hardly leave

an honest Woman in the Town : They are so charitable to think, there never was any such, but those who live solitarily, and were never attacked by a powerful Courtship ; and they particularly attribute want of these successes to the undexterous Assailant ; but they know not how to believe, that where so ever so redoubted as themselves laid siege to a Woman, she was ever able to withstand the force of their Careless. This is a thing that makes up a great part of their diversion, to recount their particular Victories ; which per-

haps to oblige Posterity, they are so kind as to Record them in some lascivious Songs; And indeed to give them what they call their due; they obtain too many Conquests of this Nature; as it is not to be expected otherwise, from an Affiduity and an Industry great as theirs. But yet, with their favour, it favours but little of good Breeding or good Nature (for higher considerations are nonsense to them) to reap the effects of anothers easiness or kindness, and then to spread it in every company; whilst none but those persons who are strangely vicious, can delight

light in that Society, where nothing but the Dishonour and Scandals of Women are constantly Repeated; which besides the Subject, is done in a Language so Innocent, Modest, and Ingenious, that it is strange such great Wits, should delight in so barren conceptions: They pretend to admire the soaring, and refinedness of the Fancy, but I know never a Plowman, but might deliver himself with as much variety of Imagination, as they do upon these Subjects: And were it not for that strange pleasure, they find in exceeding the prescriptions of Virtue and

and modesty, and in scorning
 the limits are set to the extra-
 vagancies of men, they would
 blush themselves at such a
 sort of ingenuity: I do believe,
 that never in any Age, was
 there such a violent and uni-
 versal thirst after the Fame of
 being Wits, and yet no Age
 has possible discharg'd it self,
 with less real applause in
 those pretences; Wit, though
 to be properly the vivacity,
 and the agreeableness of the
 sense, yet there ought to be-
 long something more to that
 high quality, than a little
 dash and quibble, which yet
 is all that this Age has bid for
 that

that mighty Fame: And it
 not to be question'd, but that
 the next generation, will
 at a loss to find out that
 of which their Fathers
 much boasted: We affect
 beautiful Trimming of
 raign words; the youth,
 pleasantness of the fancy,
 the subject is contemptible
 which this dress is bestowed
 which with time, wearing,
 dyed and out of Mode,
 thing will appear so ridiculous
 as that unvalued Subject,
 which we may say, as the
 Poet did once of the Women
 that it is the least part of
 self. Besides, when they are

witty

witty, they are alwayes be-
 holding to Monsieur ; in
 which they equally discredit
 themselves, and their Nation :
 To place Wit in a Mode of
words, is little commendati-
 on to the fancy of him that
 wears it ; a sufficient quanti-
 ty of these words are used
 every day by a Block-head,
 whilst yet they penetrate into
 the nature of nothing, but
 like Arrows shot into the Air,
 fall idly back upon the Earth :
 And then their Nation is little
 beholding to them, whilst
 they undervalue its Antient,
 and unaffected Language : I
 cannot but think, that our
 Ancestors

Ancestors understood themselves as well as we do, and spoke as much to the content and pleasures of those they entertain'd; who yet larded not their Discourses with ends of *French*; they were careful of the true glory of *English* men to justify the Dominion of their Language, equal to the Dominion of their Seas: Most thinks our Nation blushes and appears out of Countenance to see it self neglected, whilst the leight *Gallia* receives all the Courtships of its ungrateful Youth, and it has reason enough for a just indignation; whilst it is done with
the

the perverting of a better Ge-
 nius; and a rendering that
 Fantastick which was before
 serious and manly. As every
 thing which is natural is the
 most handsom, so it is free
 from the follies of affectation;
 and as much as we have studi-
 ed to Ape the *French*, we have
 yet only reach'd that perfecti-
 on as to be Ridiculous: Be-
 sides, they look upon us as a
 Nation to whom they give
 the Laws of Mode; and
 presently ravish with tran-
 sports from them, the smal-
 est trifles they are pleas'd
 to Countenance: This is
 a great Pride to them,
 whilst

whilst they see themselves
 to preside over our Gen-
 us, and to guide it into
 all the Fashions which the
 rambling Fancies take. The
Spaniard (though affected
 enough in this way) yet
 this understands his Reputa-
 tion; whilst having disputed
 with them for the universal
 Monarchy, scorns to truck
 under the Laws of the
 Mode; and sullenly keeps
 a Fashion of some hundreds
 years, rather than to appear
 inclined to the lightness of his
 Neighbours. But it were bet-
 ter to let them command our
 Dresses, than our Language
 because

because these are to be altered
 by time, whilst the other
 should be left pure and unble-
 mished to Posterity; from
 whom we betray the glory of
 our Fathers. This ought to
 be the principle concernment
 of the Wits; because as they
 guide the inclinations of the
 Youth, so they are capable of
 delivering themselves sweetly
 and pleasantly, in the Native
 beauties of our Language:
 and can render their concepi-
 ons lovely, without the paint
 and imbellishments of *France*.
 'Tis they must rescue our cap-
 tive Language from the fet-
 ters of that Tongue: Which
 would

would be more generous
 them, and procure them
 greater Fame, than to make
 their boast (as I know some
 of them do) that he cannot
 Write well in our Language
 who understands not the
Frenob. It is no wonder to
 hear a Fop, Pride himself in
 store of *French* words; be-
 cause his Memory is all the
 fountain of his Sence; but it
 is not so with the Poets, who
 pretend to the most Elevated
 and most refined Notions. I
 speak not this, Sir, out of
 disrespect to that Language
 highly necessary to all that
 frequent Courts; and that
 have

(F O T)

have to do in the Important
Affairs of the Wor'd: But yet,
where that and our own Lan-
guage dwell together in the
same Capacity, like the Cur-
rents of the *Tavas*, and *Dan-
ube*, they should never mix in
all their Conversations.

But, Sir, I have kept you
long enough in these conside-
rations. You may now just-
ly expect something to divert
you. Let us then compare
some of the ordinary Town
Adventures and Exploits, with
the Sentiments before mentir-
oned; and indeed, it is their
Actions that will be most ca-
pable of transporting you to

a glorious emulation ;
 though the sweetness and
 beauty of Discourse ,
 thing very Enamouring ,
 action is the darling of you
 and of a sprightly disposition
Rome found its old men bu-
 nels for their Eloquence ,
 relieving distressed Clients ,
 in appeasing the disorders
 the people ; but the You-
 were continually busied
 the Wars , and generous
 achievements ; and indeed
 Nations , have esteemed War
 of a second venture to Arms
 Now , Sir , if you have
 ambition about you , you
 not fail of meeting in
 Town

down with strange satisfaction
 There are men, who
 begin not the day till Noon ;
 The Morning affording the
 sweetest sleeps, and the pillow
 being the best place to take
 counsel on, for the adven-
 tures of the evening : That of
 the Play-House is the first
 stage, where they can support
 the repetition of an old Play, if
 they can but make Love to a
 new Beauty : They come not
 hither to learn Wit, for they
 do reside over the Language
 of the Stage : But they come
 like true Knights Errant, in
 search of adventures, and their
 humours are so much allied
 to

to the Romanes, that can do nothing without Distressed Lady; where any thing heightens their Appetite, and pleases their Fancy, by the little sleights of Masque, or some pretty stratagem, they become eager of the Quarry, and apply themselves to all the Arts of the Game: But their principal business in this House, is to meet their Friends, and joyn themselves in a Squadron for some gallant exploit Which perhaps is first at the House of Pleasure, and then at the French House; where having repeated their former gallantries

Gallantries, and heightened
 with courage, with eloquence
 and Wine, they are fit to ga-
 ther fresh Bays for the Gar-
 and of their triumphs; and
 add a new lustre to their
 former Actions. In these
 grave Humours, has many a
 Watchman been forc'd to
 measure his length upon the
 ground; the poor Constable
 been put beside the gravity of
 the Interrogatories; Many
 timorous Female has been
 forc'd to fill the Air with
 shrieks, and Complainings:
 Whilst during this close en-
 gagement, the thundering
 cannon of their Oaths, have
 with

with horreur fill'd the Neighbourhood: And when they have obtain'd such Victories as these, lest they should find an Historian capable of Recording to the life, their noble performances, they are committed to the Pages of a Sonnet: Whilst our Gallies, like the *Roman*, conquer and write at the same rate; and indeed to such a courage, and an Eloquence is necessary, lest the life and vigour of their actions should languish in the Dullness of ordinary Style. It is, Sir, to such dreadful things as these you must be bred, if you covet such company

any; they caſt all that
 faint-hearted, or unfit for
 Wars, or that have not a
 body capable to indure the
 Diſcipline and Toils of their
 Camp: To be a great Wit, is
 an imperfect qualification,
 for they aſſociate with none
 of ſpeculative pleaſures: And
 ſteem him Ignoble, who dares
 not Act at the rate he can Di-
 ſpute: Which has been found
 in the Fortune of ſome Mo-
 dem Wits, who have been
 neglected, becauſe unfit for
 Exploits: So that if you would
 join your ſelf to the conver-
 ſation of theſe Gallants, you
 muſt well examine your ſuf-
 ficiency

ficiency and courage for the
 highest Atchievement. There
 is moreover, another task
 longs to him that accompanies
 with them ; and will pass for
 Wit in the Town, that is, you
 must write a Play : Which is
 a kind of Fantastical necessity
 imposed by fashion on a Gentle-
 tleman, who is obliged to haz-
 ard his Abilities, and such pro-
 perties of Fame, and Humour.
 The case is not the same with
 him as with a mercenary Poet
 who ventures for his gain, and
 not like a Hero, whom the
 desire of glory alures to write
 the first can support a misad-
 riage, not only through neces-
 sity,

effry, but also by the advan-
 ces of getting Money: But
 the other, according to the
 Chymærical rules of their Ho-
 nour, ought to dispatch him-
 self with his own unfortunate
 pen, which has so ill served the
 interests of his Glory, and
 blush to survive so shameful
 overthrow: He that per-
 forms any thing of this nature,
 ventures at the first rank of
 Vices; and to gain the highest
 steps, where this Age has
 mounted its ambition: But
 that is unsuccessful in the
 attempts, falls down with the
 greater precipitancy amongst
 ordinary men; and not only
 F loses

loses his hopes, but his former standing, in the division of Wits. Which has been found in some of the endeavours of our times, where those that have past for the greatest wits venturing on the Stage have discharged themselves so in their pretences, that the world will by no means allow them what they formerly professed; & are moreover grown suspicious, that among those they name for the greatest Wits, there is that farthest barrenness and dulness, which they reproach inferior men; he that has got the Reputation of a Wit, ought to maintain

maintain it by suspicion, and
 not expose too much of that
 quality to pitiful Censures;
 since he that writes, puts him-
 self on the ordinary trial of
 his Country; but he that ut-
 ters only in Juncto's and Ca-
 sals, stands alone to the Trial
 of his Equals. Who are not
 to judg by the general Laws
 of Wit, but by the principles
 of their own Honour, that is
 of their allow'd Humour. So
 that both your Wit and your
 Person, Sir, must run equal
 hazards in your joyning with
 these men. There are some
 But is true, not only of a more
 peacable temper, but also

F 2

less

less ambitious of Wit: But there is nothing among them, that will be high enough for the Emulation of a Country Gentleman: Their business is, to make long addresses to a Mistress, or to sit till Midnight at a Tavern: Where they talk judiciously of some new Piece of Wit that goes about the Town; or the fortune of the Poets: To value themselves by their ability to dress well; and their quick intelligence of a new Mode. They will entertain you with long winded and ridiculous stories of their amorous successes; they will find fault

with

with the fitting of your Periwig, or the way you have in managing your Cloaths: And though to follow the fashion of Conversation, they will speak with Encomiums on the Wits, yet they damn all Sence and Understanding, where the man is not adored, but in that case they are forc'd to Truckle under the Laws of Fame. And now, Sir, if you should pass from this Gentleman who pretends to do nothing; and seek for a Friendship amongst men of Affairs; you would yet miss of what you sought; there being nothing amongst them

F 3

agree-

agreeable to an indifferent
 Person. If you go to the Inn
of Court, where you will
 hear the distresses of Clients
 with the Murmurs of those
 who continually sollicite a ca-
 pricious or a sullen Justice
 amongst men who are busied
 with these concernments, the
 Idea of Conversation is com-
 monly very Pedantick, and
 unpolisht, and in Truth, not
 worthy of a Gentleman; where
 men study not so much things
 noble and generous, but the
 Arts of palliating wrong, and
 defeating and deferring right.
 With what pleasure could
 you seek the friendship of
 mighty

mighty Clark, who having a
 head crouded with Records &
 Statutes, sits drowfily brood-
 ing over unjust causes, with the
 matted satisfaction of tiring
 out, by pedantick stratagems,
 the Votaries of Justice; endea-
 vouring to draw Clouds on
 the Sun-beams, and to hang those
 Mists on truth, that it shall
 wander in the clearest evi-
 dences: Forcing his consci-
 ence, tamely to truckle under
 the love of Money, and of
 Fame. Certainly this man
 can have nothing in him
 agreeable to the principle of
 Nobleness, found in a Gentle-
 man: Neither if you should
 stand

stand off from his endea-
 ments, would his indiffer-
 ent Conversation afford you any
 contentment; whilst he might
 entertain you with a long story
 of his Industry in Causes
 with honourable Encomiums
 of the wise Speeches of the
 Judges; a blind Admiracion
 of those who have wit enough
 to get a great deal of Money
 with the Factions of the Bar
 and the rise of famous Plea-
 ders; and such unprofitable
 Harangues which signifie no-
 thing to an indifferent Person
 who is not interested in the
 manner of Life. If, Sir, you
 address your self to a young

younger men of those Socie-
 ties, you will find many of
 them to have only just so much
 of the gallant Humour as
 serves to make them singular,
 and not ridiculous; whilst they
 are the idle Imitators of those
 things they cannot come up
 to: If you have a mind to di-
 vert your self, you may be-
 hold in them, just matter for
 such an entertainment; whilst
 you shall see them manage
 the affected Strut, and their
 half-moded Garniture: Hear
 them speak in the Phrases of a
 Play, (that Modish sort of
 Canting) and becoming the
 Insurers of their own glorious

adventures: They damn
 things but the extream Nic-
 ties of humour; and even scorn
 the Learning of their own
 Society, whilst they extol
 the magnanimities of a Bravo.
 They pride themselves in their
 Amours to a Sempstress; and
 in Swearing like those who
 keep company with the Wits.
 Nay, you must take their oaths
 for their Wit; for they be-
 lieve their profuseness the
 way, a sufficient proof of
 their being furnished with
 that Quality: But with
 this noise they know little
 that address, of which they
 are the fond Idolaters.

is to be understood, only of the vain, the imperfect, and the half-witted part of them. For these Societies are, otherwise, the Nurseries of men of great Abilities, and Virtues. I believe I have said enough, Sir, to divert you from seeking a friendship amongst those men. In these Distresses, I presume you will not apply your self to the Merchant, whose Business is Profit, and Interest; without any design upon the Improvement of arms, letters, or conversation. I cannot imagine, Sir, that you will seek lower for a society. But yet I have omitted one

one sort of men, where you
will be confident of being
Relieved, and they are the
new Philosophers. Here in-
deed, it were the highest in-
justice to say you should be
deceived; whilst they have
given out themselves to have
done so much for the advance-
ment of Knowledg; and
seem to have obtain'd a Victo-
ry over it, with the same co-
lerity as Cæsar did, who only
saw and overcame. It is un-
der their conduct that Learn-
ing has made such famous
Acquists, whilst they have
it Victorious through the glo-
rious Regions of the Skies
through

through the shady Empire of
the Main ; carrying its Arms
so far on the Continent, as to
strike its Ensigns to the Center
of the Earth ; giving it so
absolute and so entire a Victo-
ry, that it may now, like the
ambitious Youth, lament the
scarcity of Worlds. This,
Sir, is the sum of their pre-
tences, and what they pro-
claim ; but you will be a little
surprized, when you shall
find them so long groveling in
Mechanicks ; And pinioning
with those meaner Arts, the
Mind, which so many Ages
had used to happy flights :
Causing such a noise about the
infirm

infirm foundation laid by
 Ancestors, as to make
 magnificent Structure haz-
 ardous of being abandon'd
 those eminent Wits that have
 Lodged in it. With these
 Gentlemen, I am assured, you
 will not desire to spend your
 Time ; and with any of the
 former we desire you should
 not. You must in these dis-
 stresses turn Gallant, and join
 your self to the company of
 Women ; to spend whole af-
 ternoons in kissing their hands
 in admiring their dresses, and
 pretending to receive mortal
 wounds from their Beauty.
 But yet, over and above this
 method,

this were an idle Life, you
 would be discarded if you used
 it; for we are not now adays
 for Lectures of Platonicks;
 since many of our Women
 are grown as hardy as the
 men, and love a taste of the
 thing you wot of, to relish
 their Conversations: They
 detest the formality of hear-
 ing long Discourses of their
 beauty, of the Achievements
 of their Sex, or any of their
 Adventures that are not Arch
 and Couragious: So that, Sir,
 you will be more ridiculous
 in these attempts, than unsuc-
 cessful in the other. If you
 should last of all, abandon
 parti-

particular Societies, and cho
 in with all in common : The
 Park, the Play-House, the
 Eating-house, and the Coffee
 house : You will hear an unintel
 ligible Buzzing, and
 noise of what you understand
 not : Some snatches of occur
 rences, whose beauty you are
 not able to perceive without
 the knowledg of the whole
 If passing by the Benches of
 the Pit, you should hear a
 young Gallant swear, that he
 had appointed the assignation
 at Eight of the Clock ; you
 could not tell whether it was
 an Intrigue with a Countess
 or with a Citizens Wife :

you

you should take a walk; and
 weaver a course betwixt a
 Elro, and a Lady in a Mask;
 except you were acquainted
 with her Voice, and her Fashi-
 on, you could give your self
 no account of the Hunted
 Beauty: These things, Sir,
 would perplex that curiosity
 they could not satisfy: And
 besides, nothing at all instruct
 you in the glorious adventures
 of the Town: And then for
 the great Mart of Lies and
 Nonfence, the Coffee-house:
 If you could furnish your self
 with so much patience, as to
 sit here half an hour; you
 might hear one Gentleman
 say

say to another; I am surpris-
 zed, Sir, at the News you told
 me last night; I did not be-
 lieve that Nation was capable
 of so much fineness and de-
 vinity, now if you were
 there at the precise time of re-
 ceiving this Intelligence, at
 the foregoing Evening, you
 could not understand of what
 it was spoken: Except you
 civilly ask the question, which
 is an affront to, and below the
 gravity of that place: And be-
 sides, unless you know your-
 self to be of a remorseless, and
 bloody disposition, you will
 be extremely moved by com-
 passion, at those Tragick His-
 stories

ories you will there find ut-
 tered: the Sacking of Towns,
 Cutting in pieces of gal-
 lant Troops; the approach
 Catastrophies of Nations;
 misfortunes of eminent
 men; the Fantastick
 events, under which puissant
 monarchies groan, &c. Will
 be so continually thun-
 der'd in your Ears, that you
 will often be obliged to a con-
 sideration for those Persons,
 who really stand in need of
 such compassion. Besides,
 there will be this inconveni-
 ence in general Remarks; that
 you must expect to be Jeer'd
 with a witness, if you pre-
 sume

fume to peep into the My-
 steries of a Humour, of which
 you are not the Crafts-man
 the Professors of every
 intrigue, taking a great pleasure
 to despise a pretended Novice
 are: And I have known a little
 Hector, more to glory in his
 sleights he is capable of using
 in picking up a Wench, than
 in the variety of his know-
 ledg, than a great Captain
 ever did, in the stratagems and
 Policies of War: The desire
 of Glory and Singularity is
 now as violent as ever, though
 its satisfaction is placed in such
 trifling and idle acquirements
 neither should you meet with

much contempt, if you
 come to know the most glori-
 ous Myſteries of War, or rule
 from its greateſt Maſters; as
 you ſhall if you apply your
 ſelf to a Gallant to know the
 Modes of the Town: Who
 ſeems himſelf more upon ſuch
 ſufficiency, than the others
 could upon theirs: So that it
 will by no means be agreeable
 to the height of your ſpirit, to
 pretend but in part to the Hu-
 mours of a *Hero*; becauſe
 you will be ſtrangely ruffled if
 you are found ignorant in the
 niceſt points. I can think for
 the preſent, of nothing elſe
 that is important in the occur-
 rences

rences of the Town. And now, Sir, what is it that you see in this manner of life capable of pleasing you? Or should cause you to prefer it before the Innocence, Modesty, and pleasures of your Country one. Do you live ingloriously, because you go to Bed at ten a Clock, and do not up the Sun to usher you to your Lodgings? Is it more pleasant to lie in little Rooms more incommodious than the Lodge of your Porter, than to be well attended, and in command in the Palace of your Ancestors? Is there any necessity that you should esteem

seem that day as lost, in
 which you have not signalized
 your valour on the Apple-
 men, the Constable, or the
 Glass-windows? Giving
 such actions a lustre to the
 night in which you do them,
 should make it capable of
 rivaling the brightness of the
 morning. I see no necessity,
 of humouring such an
 ambition: Or are you not edu-
 cated like a Gentleman, except
 you have half a score times
 been under the hands of the
 surgeon, for the Consumpti-
 on 'tis surely a very fantastical
 Genius that governs this Age,
 to place the glory of a Hero
 in

in such odd sort of suffering
 are you obliged by the rules
 the new Honour, to swear
 prodigiously, as if you were
 made Master of the Artillery
 to the Devil, or else you can
 not be reckon'd a man of good
 utterance and sense ; We
 here, Sir, esteem you well
 enough without such long
 streams of Rhetorick ; and
 sufficiently value your gener-
 rosity, though you oblige not
 your lavish soul to spend all
 Virtue in a moment. You may
 Sir, (according to our opin-
 ion) try your strength better
 in the manly exercises of the
 Country, than in the Debaucheries

haucheries of the Town! and
 find less repugnance in making
 Love to a Lady, whose Vir-
 tue equals her Beauty, than in
 lavishly presenting of Wen-
 ches, who will spend your
 bounty as freely on a Groom,
 or a Foot-boy: Your mind will
 certainly be more tranquil,
 and more capable of generous
 Thoughts, that has the Idæas
 of Justice and Innocence to ca-
 rels it, than when it is heated
 with the Exploits of the
 Town; those minds who have
 alwaies before them the Ima-
 ges of such low and com-
 mon things, can never gene-
 rate Actions truly noble or
 G wor-

worthy of *Heroes* ; since it
 impossible for the soul to pro-
 duce any thing above its Idæa.
 And in short, Sir, what satis-
 faction do you imagine my
 Lady will take in the know-
 ledg of these things : Will she
 not have just reason for her
 grief and displeasures, when
 she sees how ill you improve
 the care of her education, and
 what a disagreeing Structure
 you raise on such a foundation
 she will see with infinite grief
 the disappointment of her
 hopes, whilst she must leave
 behind her only the Name
 without any of the Virtues
 that were Illustrious in your
 Family

Family : As she will reflect with trouble on those happy Mothers, who all along had a charge in your Race ; and who died with the contentment of a prosperous conduct ; when at the same time, though her prudence and her diligence have equally theirs, yet her charge has alone miscarried : she has been a fruitful Mother, and set you in the Clusters of Hives, but she must see you growing Dim and Sullied in the circle of so bright a Race ; and she will believe that the glory of your House is set, since a Name adds nothing to a Family, without virtuous

G 2 endow-

endowments. And in fine, Sir, we that have hitherto been honoured with your Friendship shall not know after what manner to receive you, when you return from the Town: we know you will sufficiently despise not only our capacities but our Courage; whilst we can neither talk, nor act at your admirable rate: Nor I believe will you ever be able to inspire us with your Gallantry of mind: We can very peaceably go to Bed by a Candle, and not desire to swim to our repose through Blood or Wine. We are guilty of that good breeding as to think it rude to

lie long after the Sun; neither have we those prodigious adventures to dream of, as could endear the Pillow to us beyond the hour of twelve. Well, Sir, we must take our leave of you when you go, and never expect to see that accomplished Innocent young Gentleman again in our Country; but one that will become the terrour of the Piggs, and the Pullen; and that will level such an Artillery of Oaths against us, as must oblige us to stand off with our Caresses. Thus, Sir, like Justice, you must be a stranger in your Country: Or return again to the bosom of

your *Heroes*; where after you
 have cut off another
 branch of your Estate, you will
 have added enough to the tri-
 umphs of wit, and humour: and
 though with less glory, yet
 more discretion, return like a
 Consul privately home: where
 you will have time to reflect
 like an unfortunate aspirer, on
 all the precipitancies of a wild
 ambition; and on the fanta-
 stick Paths are trod to the glo-
 ry of this Age: Yet you will
 then find that all your exercise
 of Eloquence, and Arms, in
 which you had been bred in
 the Town, will not bestow upon
 you a sufficiency to serve
 your

your Country, with reputation and success; or to preside over the fortune of bickering Nations: But though your Age will not feel the weight of your Laurels; yet it may the smart of your debauchments; and the extravagancies of an hour, may accompany your sence to the remotest moments of your life: and that reason to which time will restore its just Dominion, will not only with indignation see the miscarriage of its affairs, under the conduct of a wild Humour; but also, like a just Prince, behold with pity the ruine of its Interests, and the fatal waists of its

Inhe-

Inheritance, under the regimēt of that Tyrant, when must live a solitary and drooping Monarch, lamenting the captivity of its noble Princes, carried away in the Incurfions of youthful Lusts, and grieve to have arrived too late to rescue the fairest subjects of its powers; when the pleasures of what it possesses will not be able to divert the trouble of losing what it ought to have enjoyed. After all, Sir, you will add to those numerous instances, that show to the world the alone power of experience: Whilst all the Remonstrances of others; and the

the admonitions of our best
 Friends can never prevail so
 effectually upon us as our own
 trial of things : And that he
 which will be truly wise, must
 be at his own cost, and not ex-
 pect it at the expences of o-
 thers. Yet from that Experi-
 ence, you will not receive in-
 struction with that friendli-
 ness and sweetness, with which
 now your Relations make you
 their Remonstrances : That
 Lords it, and imposes, sitting
 upon our minds like sullen
 Counsellors in declining states,
 presenting us not with the
 Picture ; but the Original of
 unpleasant things. Experi-
 ence

once is the last Instructor
 Mankind; having in that Au-
 thority and Eloquence, yet
 which Examples and Precepts Re
 are destitute: Whether or no
 'tis reserved as a punishment and
 of untractable dispositions, we
 know with a blush and regret to
 what they would not receive ou
 with an even and a tranquil in
 temper. Or whether it is the sev
 surest way to conquer an in- tal
 glorious affection to Vice ru
 certain it is, it has triumphed Al
 in very great instances of m
 power; and reclaimed those he
 that were impenetrable comp
 sweeter Arts: And there has
 not past any Age, in which th

has not done something ex-
 traordinary and eminent. But
 yet it was the desire of your
 Relations, that you might
 have escaped its Discipline,
 and that not only because it
 would show more generosity
 to be otherwise admonished;
 but also, because that is
 known to be sometimes very
 severe, and to have that fa-
 tality in its procedure as to
 ruin the subject it instructs:
 Allowing but some few mo-
 ments of being wise. We
 heartily wish that you may be
 spared from those severities;
 and since you will be left to
 the Documents of experience,
 that

that it may deal favourably
with you, and kindly shew
you in a little, what the great-
er amounts to, is the passion-
ate wish of all that know
you: And particularly of,

Sir,

Your most affectionate Friend

and humble Servant.



To the

READER.

IT has not only been the Fashion, but esteemed a Justice in every Age, to assist those Theatres that have been run down by a Popular practice and contempt: Marriage appear'd so to the Author of the following Raper; which suffers too much in the loss of its Veneration and Esteem; had any more dexterous, found that Generosity about them, as to have perform'd an act of so much Justice, they had prevented this attempt of the author, who writes not out of affection nor a busy humour. But it

To the reader.

seemes the wits are revolted, and have taken employment under Tyrannick, and prosperous vices, whilst those who are best able to appear for so excellent a Subject, have deserted it, the assistances of meaner Persons, though they may want the applauses of Success, yet they lose not the Character of Kindness. And when others are strangely impleaded in heaping! Reproaches on Marriage, and in ascribing disadvantages to it, whilst they affront it with their new Wits and their modish Vices, nothing can appear more Just, then to vindicate it, by Recapitulating those benefits that it has produced in the world: it is a witness great enough of its misfortune, that it needs to be Harangued, since its practickall Esteem and Veneration, had 'till now preserved it from the want of Elogies:

when it is reduc'd to that condition it is high time to erect its Monuments, whilst the world is so fast forgetting its Reputation and its Grandeur. But whilst the Author has attempted this, he must say in his own Justification, that he has only interess'd himself in the Subject, without reflecting upon any that have procur'd it injuries: and indeed every Writer, should proclaim like the Roman, *Pacem cum Hominibus, bellum cum vitiis*. 'Tis far from his humour to show a disrespect of that nature to any Person, and far from his belief, that the way to reclaim others, were to expose them by severe Reflexions. they will do him an injustice who think so of him; and equally traduce him, who should take his taxing the Crimes of the whole, for a Censure on the whole Community: he only designs to

To the Reader.

show the vanity and the fault of those who becoming enamoured on a fatall humour, must yet make their addresles to it in so strange a manner, as to impose on the beleif and practices of others; and in ascribing the concurrence of the whole Town to the efforts of a private Humour. We are well assured, that those vices have found impregnable more Persons then they can pretend to have Conquer'd. Though at the same time, since all Vice is progressive, and especially when it is pusht on, by so strange a confidence and affectation, it is but necessary to fix some Accusations on that Practice, whose noise and daring temper, may in time, make more considerable devastations in the possessions of that Vertue which yet is left secure and uncorrupted. And the Author designs this Declaration not only

To the Reader.

an excuse for the following Paper, but also as a Justification of what he has formerly written, in which he finds himself censured as taxing the whole Town with those blemishes, which he only affixed to the affected and imposing humour; though he can esteem that reproach as no other than an Evasion and an Artifice in the faulty, since those whose innocence is assured, never concern themselves in any Reflections which belong not to them.

—Thus far I had written, when I received an Answer to my Remarques; but it was neither with *Trouble* nor *Surprize*; since I very well know, that it is impossible for the most modest Adversary to defend himself from the present briskness of the Town wit: which spares neither a Friend nor an Enemy: the trade of *Poetry* and *Railery* [must] go on,

To the Reader.

or else all the Town wit [must
 be starv'd. I received no disorder
 in the least from any thing in his
 Book; only his Preface put me
 to a little heat, in which I [must
 tell him, that amongst all the
 bad Company he beleives I have
 kept, I yet never met with any
 thing so disingenuous and ill-bre-
 as his odious Epistle: and I can
 assure him, that I have given the
 World greater proofs then him-
 self of contrary Impressions: but
 the anger is over, and I am his
 most Humble Servant; and though
 he beleives me to be a *Pedant*, a
Tutor, a *Secretary*, and *Squire*
Clodpate. I will yet imagine
 him to be a great Wit, a Gen-
 tleman, and if he pleases a Per-
 son of Quality: for I always
 find it more easy, as well as
 more civil, to give Elogies, ra-
 ther then reviling: as for his
 design, it was brave, and not

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To the Reader.

all *Dangerous*; for what could he do less, when he was perpetually egg'd on by a fair Lady who was resolved not to admit of his Courtships, except he appear'd prodigiously Ingenious, as he is otherwise sweetly accomplish'd: the appearing of a *Capriccio*, like that Princess, who would have refused for her Gallant, the handsomest man in *Europe*, if he had not been also at the same time, the greatest wit of the *Conclave*. I congratulate you Madam, in the choice you have made, of a Servant; he has acquitted himself well of your Ladyships Commands; and I hope, when you have any others, you will not bestow them else where: but yet if at any time, you should request him to write your Life, let me beseech you, to forbid him to put an Epistle before it, for he has the worst faculty that way.

To the Reader.

way, of any Gentleman I know. All that I shall say to his Book, is, that it is throughout one great mistake; and that first, in taking those Reflexions to be intended for all the Town, which were only directed to a very few Persons. And then to affirm that the words of *Age*, *Nation*, *Town*, *Societies*, &c. were General, since it is so plainly to be seen, by the *Censure*, and the *Character*, that none but a foole would have treated them in that manner: an *Age*, a *Nation*, a *Town*, in which are so much Learning, Bravery, and Vertue; and particularly, those *Societies* that are by all the world honoured and revered, for those endowments the Gentleman has mentioned in them. All that I prosecuted was a vain and enterprizing humour, which having (upon occasions apparent) found amongst some of the *Wits*

To the Reader.

I after followed where it had
took refuge in graver Communi-
ties, the former received the re-
search, like those who are just-
ly esteemed the greatest Wits
of our Nation : but amongst the
latter, it met with the *Haloo*,
and the *Ran-dan* for the Coun-
try: this it is to have any thing
to do with those Gentlemen, for
my part I disclaim them, and
shall hereafter be as unwilling to
Note their Imperfections, as I
have ever been to admire their
force of Vertue. Another great
mistake is, that I designed Sir, T.
L. for a *Hero*: what was intend-
ed in him, was only to show
that a Gentleman who had ar-
rived at all the perfections of a
good Education, might live more
prudently on his Estate in the
Countrey, then to spend it in the
Town, only on women, Playes,
Gamiture, and Fricacies: and
this

To the Reader.

this Gentleman knowes (who must be a man of the Law by his frequent Quotations.) That his Majesties Father of Glorious Memory, Commanded by Proclamation, all Country Gentlemen to reside on their Estates, and not to come to the Town, to *Hero-sie* in eating of Ragoos, and *Fricacies* : and in short, next to those whose affairs lye in it, it is properly a place for younger Brothers, who may raise their Fortunes, by Armes, Letters, or Conversations. I think I have in these few lines, answered all that the Gentleman has Objected. There is only a great deal of Divertisement, Reviling, hard Words if not Pedantry too, behind : for which I shall say in the Gentlemans behalf, that as for the former, he endeavour'd to imitate the present mode of Writing, and he does excellently well for a beginner,

To the Reader.

ginner, and he may easily be excused if he has reach'd but few of those perfections required in that criticall Stile : and as for the latter, having to do with a Pedant, and a Tutor, he could not but forget that Civility and Respect, which without doubt, is (otherwise) naturall to him : and he thought it needless, to use any of the Lawes (which he found not in his study) of *Writeing-Mascarade* ; since he thought himself not at all obliged to show any respect to one in a *Vizard*. But I resolve, for my own part, to be more carefull, and wish heartily his friendship and reconciliation ; and if the Gentleman, who has succeeded so well in Letters, should also make his applications to Armes, if Sir, T. L. and his Tutor, meet him in the spring, on board his Majesties Fleet, I know that Person, will endcavour

To the Reader.

endeavour a friendship between this worthy Gentleman, and his Mothers Secretary : but I would not willingly defer it so long ; but rather perfect now so important an affair. Come Sir, you are out of humour ; I wish we might enjoy you a little in our Country ; where you should have good entertainment, though you might not meet *Astræa* there, (whole allusion you so unkindly mistook) my Lady will treat you with extraordinary Magnificence, and her Secretary shall serve you with great officiousness : you shall Drink, Hunt, Hawke, Course, nay you shall stay on *Sunday*, and hear our Parson, who is an honest Gentleman, though possible he cannot Preach so Divinely as *Maximus*. I have now done with the Gentleman. I have only a word to say to the Town, and particularly the vindictive

To the Reader.

dictive Ladyes ; as for any thing in the Remarques, I do affirm on the reputation (with my Answerers good leave I would say it) of a Gentleman, that I never intended it in the least, to impair the reputation of excellent Persons ; or the Conversations of the Town : and I hope no other will be guilty of so unkind a mistake, as to think I meant Age, Nation, and Town, any otherwise, then as they are frequently applied to particular humours : Nay I will say further to prevent any other Essayes ; that the Re- marques was in a manner Printed against my desire, though I will not accuse a Gentleman who had eat, and drank, and slept in an Inns of Court.) And besides, that there are some things in it

To the Reader.

it which were not my own.
 I know there is no Person
 of Justice and good Nature,
 but will be satisfied with this
 Apology: and as for others,
 I am wholly careless of their Cen-
 sure.



To Antonia.

Nothing is more just then the Dedicating this following Paper to you: neither could any consideration oblige me to forbear it: and even whilst it seeks a shade, it yet desires so illustrious a patronage. What ever censure it receives in the world, will soon be forgot in the kindness you will shew it; and the favour of so excellent a Person, will sufficiently reinforce it against all the assaults of custome and prejudice. And in the privacies where we now are, I may assume the liberty to say, we are the votaries of the neglected Theme; and acknowledge the Divinity of that Altar which the Irreligion of the Age has abandoned: all our regret is the difficulty we have found in making that sacri-

vice, which is now esteemed the degenerate Devotion of the world. Though Vertue has lost its Train, yet it receives the most obsequious respect from us; and it has not been our hearts but our conditions, that have refused its conduct in the track of Ages. We are not yet become Atheists to a Hymn, nor deserters of a fidelity which is laden with reproaches: Neither do we recount these things in a shade, because we blush to avow them in the Sun beams. No Antonia, we have deposited those resolutions in faithful assurances, which we would at any time be willing to lay out for so fair a purchase: in which also we have preserved our Vertue, like snow, that's in cold houses saved from the Estive seasons of a raging vice: the age has no propitious sentiments from us, nor do we value the reproach of being singular in our Vertue, the ancient Idea's, though the world may pretend they are faded, are yet more charming to us, than the gayness of their present

present Images : All their Paint and
 embellishments cannot enamour us on
 these ; nor has the dirt they have
 flung upon the former , prevented us
 from admiring an unequall'd beauty
 in them. We have given them the As-
 cendant of our soules ; and they have
 fashion'd there that fidelity and justice,
 which will be for ever the ornament of
 our breasts : neither do those qualities
 appear less fair and agreeable to us,
 whilst their habillements are out of mode.
 Now the popular fury and practise has
 proscribed a vertuous love, it receives
 a protection in our hearts ; and we can
 boast, that it shall never be refin'd but
 with our lives : we are sorry to give
 it no larger a Territory ; and we
 would gladly lead it farther into the
 affairs of our lives : we are not stopped
 in those designs by the Platonick pre-
 caution, nor a fear to try our Ideas by
 action : we have took other measures of
 a just and happy life : and prefer the
 example of generous Ages, before the
 fictions

fictions of Romance: tis not because we
 love their beautifull wanderings, that
 we are kept in a perplexing Labyrinth,
 and know not how to come at what we
 love; Since it is not our humours, but
 our affairs, conceal the Clue. In the
 mean time, our inclinations and our
 wishes will appear a justice to that de-
 sign; and a respect to the memory of
 our Fathers: Nay, we rather see our-
 selves deprived of some of the felicities,
 then cut off from the generous inte-
 rests of that State: we have erected va-
 tive Altars to Hymen; and pay the
 more disinterested part of the Devot-
 tion: our Piety has nothing in it of
 Mercenary, whilst the mind is the on-
 ly Devote. we have surpassed the
 Poetick Chymera's; by a truth that has
 out done their Fables; and yet that
 passion which has equal'd their flights,
 shall ever keep it self above those load-
 some places where they rest their Geni-
 us: it is not grown giddy by the
 height, nor will its flight ever become
 the

the Precipice of its Ruine. No Antonia, we have alwayes maintained the limits of Fidelity, and Iustice; nor can we ever allow our love that fatal Sovereignty, as to be above the Laws of our Vertue. we have seen too much of their misfortune, who assist a Tyrannick Passion; whilst they unhappily help it to acquire, a Felicity and Grandeur, to which it mounts on the ruines of their Repose and Honour: in our united hearts our Love has room enough to reign; and the management of those just affairs will allow it no leisure for Ambition. I have entertained you Antonia, in a manner unusual: but it cannot appear unbandsome to the Age, since it is but to imitate their divertisments in Mascarade. And to the rest, it will only show a covetousness like to theirs, who hoarded under ground their Treasures; esteeming that to be yet their Wealth, which they did not dare to own. And we have moreover, exceeded their felicity

felicity; who have on wounded
 Trees, or Marble, sought
 immortality for their Love: since
 have now committed ours to more
 perpetual abiding Letters; and though
 have set it in a shade, and a Char-
 acter unknown, yet we will expect the
 propitious time, that shall both revive
 and interpret it.

REFLEXION

(1)

REFLEXIONS ON

Marriage, &c.

I Did not think;
that when we
entertain'd our
selves with the
little Modern
Philosopher, you would af-
ter have demanded those
things from me in earnest,
which were then our diver-
tissement: but since you have
been so inclined, I obey you
B readi-

readily, both, as I should
 blush to refuse any satisfac-
 tion to a Person who has so
 grandly obliged me; and al-
 so, as I have a repugnance to
 quit my declared opinion.
 But, I hope you consider
 that you desire these things
 from a young man, who is
 incapable of doing right to
 so great, and so important
 a Subject; and one, who
 besides, can furnish the dis-
 course with no experience
 of his own; and moreover
 the distresses of that Theme
 require the assistances of the
 most dext'rous and generous
 Pen, whilst it lyes bleeding

(3)

in the armes of a barbarous
Age ; who perfectly forget-
ting the respect it has receiv-
ed from all Generations ;
and the brave assistances it
gives to humane nature ; to-
gether with the particular
obligations it has laid on
themselves , are upon the
point of finishing its be-
ing in the world, without
the least ceremony or shew
of regret. Such a Prospect,
requires the assistances of the
noblest Pen, which can do
no less then purchase to the
owner the immortal fame
of a Hero ; since Marriage
is not now assaulted from
B 2 the

(4)

the Ambushes of *Cloysters*,
nor from a lustful Fryer;
But by the fairest preten-
ders to generosity and noble-
ness, whose Protection have
in all Ages been sought by
those distressed Interests,
which have fled from the fu-
ry of *Pedants*. Whilst I thus
represent to you the impor-
tance of this Action, I shew
you my inability to do it.
But, since it is for the satis-
faction of a Friend, I think
your Ingenuity and candour
are too great, to expect a
sufficiency from a man he has
not about him. Neither,
can I believe, that you want
any

(5)

any Motives to assist you in your just resolutions; that condition appearing too lovely in it self, to want the imbellishments of Eloquence: besides the glories of the object you care for, whose perfections and accomplishments are so great, as hardly to be equalled within the compass of our Isle. , And were there not as much of pride as inclination in the present humours, we might very well question whether the most hardy of our Gallants, did they every day converse with those beautiful endowments which

B 3

She

She possesses, would not willingly despise the glory of contemning Marriage for such an enjoyment, and even be contented to be vertuous, rather than not be happy : this we have reason to believe would be their resolution, were they not strictly tyed up to the high Rules of their Ambition and Glory ; starving their judgements, whilst they feed their pride and affectation. Your design wants none of the following Arguments to justify it, nor to keep your reason from submitting to the fantastical definitions of the self-conceit-

Malmsbury Philosopher. ✓

And I must reminde you of
 one thing more ; which is ,
 that as in Pictures , so in
 such considerable draughts
 of humane Interests and Af-
 fairs , there must still be
 wanting those graces and that
 lovelyness , which no Des-
 cription nor Account can
 reach ; it being impossible
 for the glorious life to be ri-
 valled by the sweetest Paint ;
 and we can only lay the co-
 lours, and a simetry of parts,
 whilst the beauty and the
 charm are above the reach of
 Pens. It will yet be neces-
 sary, to keep your thoughts

together, to pursue a Method, and to decline the
 hunting mode of writing
 now in use, of running Re-
 marques here and there, at
 the fancy of the Author
 leads him: Marriage is our
 Theam; and the justness,
 necessity, and advantages of
 it, the Subjects to be in-
 quired into. It is now the
 opinion of those which will
 pretend to understand most,
 That the world has been
 fool'd in nothing more, than
 in an idle and a tame submit-
 ting to the fetters of Marri-
 age, that some one, un-
 known to them, did most in-
 juriously

(9)

curiously inflave so many Generations with this dull institution; which did upon that account, lose the freedome and the vigour of generous actions, and miscarried in those Essayes, that would have shewed a greater bravery and glory of Minde. All Ages being left such imperfect draughts of Heroick vertue, because the Genius was captived that drew them, which if it had known a just liberty, former Generations would have been as perfect as the present is like to appear. They think that if such a company of Hero's;
B 5 had

had been born into the
 parts of the world, who had
 been free of this Clog, Eu-
 rope had never sat so long
 flumbring with its Arms
 cross, whilst the Turk plun-
 dered it of its beautifull Pro-
 vinces; but that its Moones
 had been Eclipsed by those,
 who with the quickness of
Cæsar, had ranged the nume-
 rous Regions of the East;
 carrying their victories so
 farr upon the Traverse till
 they had found no day light
 to conquer by: but the
 World has wanted these Ho-
 roick flights, whilst it has
 been the impediments of

Wedlock, that made it sit
 so long ingloriously still,
 and to paint the Scenes of its
 adventures with so much
 imperfection and dulness.
 But when we shall find that
 the world has received not
 greater benefits by the Ido-
 lators of Liberty, then from
 the votaryes of Wedlock;
 and when it will appear that
 nothing is more just to man-
 kind then that condition,
 we shall be able to return so
 criminable a Charge. Those
 Ages defend more prudently,
 and with greater moderation,
 who made not bravery of
minde a Knight errant hu-
mour,

inour, submitting to all the
 risques of Fancy and Appe-
 tite; the world has suffered
 by nothing more then in this
 useless noise, nor could
 there have been an act of
 greater prudence, then to
 put the shackles on this mad
 and wild Liberty, which
 would more then any other
 thing, have disordered hu-
 mane Affairs. True noble-
 ness and glory, is regular and
 managed; and not like that
 Goddess born on the brain:
 an infinite number of bene-
 fits and publique kindnesses,
 sate long in Counsell how to
define it; nor have they pas-
sed

sed its Character without
 many correctings and emen-
 dations ; they have drawn to-
 gether different perfections ;
 and then tryed them all (like
Burnas Purgation) by the
 vigour of humane affaires ,
 our Ancestours conferred
 not their favours so readily ,
 nor did they admit those in-
 to the family of Hero's, who
 were considerable only, for
 a peculiar wildness and fren-
 zy of minde : the present
 managers of Genius's, may
 try their off-spring by their
 Poetick fire, but they ought
 not to do that injustice to
their Fathers , as to affirm
they

they adored no other light. They have introduced *Chymeras* then, and have exploded excellent Realities, who have dislodged braveries of Minde from the circles of Marriage; and with them they have rob'd the world of great advantages; of which I shall give you a prospect in this following Paper. To oblige mankind, by an obligation sacred, and unalter'd, to the affairs and interests of one Love, was an act of that prudence and wisdom against which none can justly dispute: They could with no equity, have rais'd a Title to more; since the Law

of nature proclaims that [*Love-
ing of one should be for one enough*]
and that **Sex** must have been
left in a condition wholly base
and mercenary, to have took
the pay of every **Amour**; they
would have set up a **Tyranny**
in Love, which must have been
the most cruel and insupporta-
ble of all others, because exer-
cised on the best interests of
Life. Marriage puts the
world into Discipline, and a
happy government; inclose-
ing the common injoyment,
that none might lay claim to
the portion of an other: had
beauty, and the possession of
that **Sex**, been left a prey to
the

the Conquerour, and subject
to be borne away by the most
forceible courtships, mankind
must have ever dwelt jealous of
each other, proclaiming an
enmity against all the World;
and have judged their power al-
one, a sufficient defence: but
by the force of matrimoniall
Laws, and the allotments
made us from above, we live in
quiet and security with each o-
ther, who must else have stood
perpetually on our guard, and
secured what we had loved
from the wandering Lusts of
others, the world must have
been perpetually involved in
Quarrels; since Love is more
rest

restless, and more impatient
 when **Ambition**: and whilst a
 charming object had many
 claimers, she must at last have
 yielded to the Conquerour;
 and not have gratified the pas-
 sion of the most deserving, but
 the most happy, being without
 the exercise of that **Empire**
 which **Halcion Lawes** had gave
 her, that must have been whol-
 ly lost amidst the animosities
 of Rivals. Or if mankind
 had been wearyed into a more
 Friendly way of living, and
 yielded that to indifference,
 which they pretend would have
 been the effect of **Society**: yet
 still the world must have lost
 its

its **G**lory to preserve its Peace
 and like those despised **R**omans,
 who are therefore quiet
 because they bannish all things
 that would invite a Conqueror.
The use of excellent things
 must have been laid aside, and
 the World must have practised
 the wisdom of a prudent Con-
 sort, who disbands her beau-
 ties to cure the jealousies of her
Husband. And as the great
Cato urged the preserving of
Caribage, to keep up the vi-
 gour of the Roman virtue
 which would languish when
 had nothing to emulate;
 such an indifference, must have
 yeilded up all things of a gene-
 rous

concernment. Most
 of bravery and glory,
 receive a motive and originall
 from without; and as we have
 seen, that all Ages have
 applyed themselves to those
 things that procured the es-
 timation and the reward, Vertue
 presently fading, when it wants
 the Sun-shine of applause and
 emulation; and the showers of
 recompence: so no considera-
 tion of particular concern-
 ments in Love, and the study
 of appearing gratefull and
 accepted, had brought a great
 dullness on the world, then a
 present reflexion can readily
 discover, neither shall we assem-
 a

a thing at all unjust, to say
 that the world owes not in-
 considerable benefits to a vertue
Love; and that, not so much
 as it has brought upon its
 some so many **Hero's**, but
 so, as it made vigorous and
 strong the beginning of the
 vertue, which had possibly
 down wearied with small ac-
 quirements, had it not been
 supported by a generous pas-
 sion: a truth that has found
 more excellent experiments
 then what are met with in foo-
 lish **Romances**. And while
 thus the excesses, and the indis-
 crepancy had done the world
 equal prejudices, what could

more propitious to it, then
 moderation and the mid-
 way of Marriage? it re-
 moves on one hand what is
 violent, furious and Rapaci-
 ous, and overcomes on the o-
 ther a degenerate indiffe-
 rence and sloath: and as it is
 not our inclinations but their
 irregularity that makes our
 Crime, so every thing is hap-
 py in its moderation: thus
 the assistances of fire to the
 occasions of life are very
 happy and necessary, it is on-
 ly dreadfull when it growes
 unruly; we saile with pleasure
 on that Ocean, and trace its
 yielding bosome with remotest
 wealth,

wealth, from which yet we
 an inundation. So Love
 served in happy bounds by
 institutions of Marriage;
 excellencies and advantages
 remain to the world, its chi-
 dish and troublesome qualities
 are cut off by Lawes: its man-
 tame and gentle, which would
 else have devoured the faire
 concernments of the Universe
 should the world be without the
 society of this govern'd Passi-
 on, it might want a heate to vi-
 gourate, and render servicea-
 ble all its parts, which must
 else have submitted to dull lan-
 guishments, nothing then ap-
 pears more just then Mar-
 age,

since the love it cuts off
 and regulates, the world could
 have borne; and the love
 manages it cannot spare,
 without parting with the foun-
 dation of its best Affairs: nei-
 ther have any appeared dissatis-
 fied with this conduct, but on-
 ly the Bravo's, and Furiolo's
 Ages, who think that the
 satisfying of an ungovern'd
 appetite, is more important,
 than the being kind and oblig-
 ing to common nature; whilst
 only such politiques as their
 own, can make it be thought
 expedient to destroy the good
 of the whole, for the unreason-
 able satisfaction of some in par-
 ticular

ticular. The highest wisdom
 took the prospect of all the
Species, and established what
 was the benefit and the good
 all; and not what might please
 the humour of some individuals,
 who starting up in particular
Generations, and making
 a noise amongst those with
 whom they lived, could yet
 with no Justice, reproach the
 prudence that governed the
Fathers; with which they are
 displeased, through the capriciousness
 of their own folly, and
 not the defect of the precept
 which like Beds and Couches
 are not to be accused, because
 they are uneasy to the Sick and
 distempered.

tempered. We have found
 how prejudicial the small ex-
 periment they have made of
 their new way, has been to the
 world; they have practised on
 but a little while, but yet,
 like bold Empericks, they
 have so altered and spoild its
 constitution, that a long course
 of better experiments will
 hardly recover it; they have
 boasted of their Skill and Dex-
 erity, but those inconveni-
 ences that they pretended sud-
 denly to remove, they have
 opened into an impetuous tor-
 rent of peccant Humours; and
 had not former times who sub-
 mitted to the interests of Mar-
 riage,

riage, done more then they for
 the prosperity and good of the
 world, it had possible know
 scantier Allowances of health
 and tranquility: had the Ge
 nius of the Universe been
 fashioned by them, we might
 hardly have seen produced all
 those monuments of Virtue
 Glory and Nobleness, which
 now are extant in those who
 are like to do nothing but
 satisfy their humour and app
 tite, and quarrel with those
 things they cannot minde: and
 the world ought to look upon
 them as no other, but such who
 in Countries lying low, let
 the Sea upon them, to drown

all the possessions of greatest Value ; thinking such an extravagancy sufficiently recompenced, by having thereby an opportunity, to row the small Pinaces of their fancies , trimmed with the Flag and Saile of their Poetry, over the buried magnificencies and honours of their Fathers.

Marriage laid the foundation, and first principle of civil Society ; it was a Yoake for which the neck of innocence was not too soft and delicate ; and a condition governed by unerring vertue, had yet need of these allotments, as to the advantages and improvements

respect is paid it, whilst every thing that is neglected, is by that scorn rendered cheap and contemptible ; and any disesteem which Marriage lyes under, is not from the inconveniencies that are found in it, but only arises from the incivility of those times that forbear to respect it: if some Persons would study to do it Justice, we should find it again with the same votaries about it, and not like dethron'd Monarchs, without its state and unattended. Some not generous as they ought, have put affronts upon Marriage, and a desire of their reputations,

ions, have produced in others
 the fellowship of their crime;
 scrupling not at all to share in
 their Vices ; so they might
 but participate of their glo-
 ry: these are the Factions ban-
 ning against Marriage, who
 blot the memory of their
 fathers, that minded nobler
 things, can think of nothing
 better than the most disinge-
 nous and dishonourable di-
 vertisments. But I believe,
 I have said enough to vindicate
 the justness of Marriage; and
 there is that in every mans
 mind that will assist the en-
 deavour.

As the principle which

continues nature, is of
 things the most excellent and
 generous, so that which makes
 the continuance happy and
 advantageous, must not be
 contemptible: the seeds of be-
 ing in other Creatures are as
 powerfull, as *Lions* and *Tygers*
 who leave their young to inherit
 their quitted beings, and in
 Deserts where they govern.
 The *Stag* communicates to his
 Offspring his swiftness, and
 a long life, but the *Rational*
 beings, are not only confined
 in their kind, but in their
 use and glory by the discipline
 of Marriage: and it has not
 only perpetuated Generation
 and

and the advantage of Ages but
 conveyed along with it a succession
 the plea fulgure and the interests
 of it; it has not only laid the
 foundation of a vast and glorious
 Empire, but of a Sign of it
 and States up but rendered
 them useful and profitable and
 excellent, it has given birth
 to successful and flourishing
 Arts; and not only fixed
 their constellations, but ab-
 pointed the circles where-
 by shed their influence, it
 has managed the high Mettle
 and fierceness of Witt, and
 made that easy to be governed
 which might otherwise have proved
 too unruly for them that used

ic. To this we owe the original and excellency of Learning, which has taught wisdom and civility to barbarous Nations ; whose wilder influence like that of Comets , has pointed nothing but ruine and disorders to the world, had it not rose in the circles of Marriage. He was once rocked in the Cradle, whose Philosophy and Science, after travelling'd to the confines of night and day ; who rising in the sphere of Marriage, shed a quiet influence, over all that Land and Water knew. An indulgent Mother in her lap first bound the tender head

famous Conquerour, who
 wore the Laurels of so
 many victoryes, conveying
 with her milk and her careffes,
 sweetne's that charmed the
 very of his blood. Whilst
 Ambition, Warr, and Dis-
 tempers still emptyed the world,
 Marriage supplied it with
 other inhabitants, who took
 up, through the track of the
 same Education, the affairs
 and interests of their Fathers.
 When by the death of some
 excellent Person, mankind
 have been deprived of great
 Advantages and blessings, some
 others have rose up, and equal'd
 not excell'd the vertue of
their

their Fathers! When Coun-
 tries have been widdowed and
 deopled over the loss of an
 indulgent Prince, they have
 had restored in a successor
 the freshness of their wifed
 joyes: and the designs of a
 vast Empire, left in an imper-
 feet draught, has been
 filled by the succeeding
 hand with all the beauties and
 inebriating elements of Power
 An increasing Nation,
 ing too strait in narrow
 Regions, have under the com-
 duct of some Hero, to ag-
 more a common place
 whose generous designs have
 been to last perfected by
 their

successors, as to become one
 of the fairest Empires of the
 world: and it has been found,
 that mingling Nations, whose
 lines have been perplexed
 with other commissions, have
 never done any thing where
 to be renewed in those
 places that have suffered
 from, where they have not
 newly distinguished and
 united their own blood, have
 recently lost the sense and
 the glory; which sal-
 title of blood, has been the
 most motive to the most He-
 roic achievements; how
 the world behold and ad-
 mire an invincible valour
 cy

cy in the resolutions of the *Capuan*, because he could not betray the glory of a Roman: the respect and dignity of blood, is preserved nowhere but in the Channels of Marriage; and the Child only reveres the vertue of a just Parent. The fence of glory, not bounded in those sacred Spheares, had wandered till it had spent its influence, and fallen short upon the Earth. Marriage holds the *Idea* nearer, and inbellishes with that fence which makes it sacred; Emulation sends it a far off, and viewes it only with indifference; to which

the

inclination is but fortui-
 and uncertain; but we
 carry it in our bosome, when
 we have received it from our
 fathers.

He that looks upon the
 our great Empires of the
 World, will find that they
 flourished then with greatest
 slavery, when they were most
 virtuous, and that their great-
 ness declined with their Mo-
 rals: the Assyrian Empire
 was succeeded by the Persian;
 which by its strange Luxuries
 and Effeminacies, became
 easily a Prey to the armes of
Alexander, and by effeminate
ages, are no where meant
 the

the Uxorious, for the most
 over manly and gallant, and
 those that gave themselves
 to the dishonours of that Sex.
 when the Persian Empire was
 destroyed, he that put out in
 light, was too careless of pro-
 serving his own; whose
 desires and a bold spirit, but
 all that was remarkable in
 him, found no place in his Reason
 and his Wantonness, the de-
 sign to think of continuing
 what he had accepted, by
 which means that Power, be-
 ing left without assistance, but
 what was sufficient, and more
 respected by himself, and
 the most victorious and
 illustrious,

traitors, soon laid it low: a
 sharing of their Masters
 power, as they did of his
 successes, were only the
 fruits of a mad glory, few
 of them leaving a name in
 power, who had yet the possi-
 bility to have done so much
 to acquire it. After this
 the Romans the best built
 and supposed to be of the
 largest extent: spreading the
 wings of its dreadfull Eagles
 in the face of the whole
 world, being the noblest and
 most exact draughts of Power
 that the memory of Man has
 known: its vertue was the
 most usefull and generous
 until its

its Arts the most pleasing and excellent, and its Spirit the most persevering and great that any times have shown that were barely **V**ertuous with its religious Respects amongst other things, its Marriage, and by the gravity of its Morals, it stood a long succession, at once the terror and the delight of the world: all Nations, either courting its friendship or trembling at its Arms; but when it was governed by such Princes as *Nero*, and *Caligula*, it yielded to those Vices from which it could never recover it self; but
 litt

and little declined, till
 greatness on which the
 world had waited, and which
 had served, laid it self down
 gloriously in the languish-
 ing arms of Austria; where
 remains, with none of its
 mighty Qualities about it;
 though in the times of
 and Cæsar, it suffered
 much by Ambition, yet it
 then still a remedy to c-
 ure the disease; and whilst
 peace was boldly assaulted
 by one Hero, it was as bravely
 defended by another: by which
 easily raised a confutation of
 our vain opinion, who main-
 tain softness and effeminacy
 to

to be the great security
 a Nations Peace since
 nothing can more well secure
 the attempts of the most skil-
 full enemies against the peace
 of Kingdomes, then the Re-
 flexion which it makes upon
 the vigour of those Re-
 publicans. So will regard
 persons who are in the
 Republic divided. And yet
 any Nation afflicted with
 civil partition to its own le-
 sser though some of it may
 be employed as ungratefully
 against it: yet it alwaies at
 the same time receiveth the effect
 of the others acknowledgement
 of its misfortune.

If we should quit this great
 ocean? we have traced, and
 a view of all the lesser
 currents of opinion, that
 we run through every Age,
 shall find that Marriage
 the Fountain from whence
 flowed that Virtue, which
 is the spring and propitious to
 all. But we will leave that
 to the poets, and open a prospect
 to the affairs of Learning,
 which as it has rose in times
 of peace and plenty, so it will
 receive respect and en-
 couragement from these ages:
 The philosophers governed Re-
 publicques in Greece, but they
 not only lost their reputation,

but

but their blood in the effeminate dayes of *Nero*. *Science* never took birth but in grave and prudent times, whilst the scurrilous and wanton was ever esteemed in idle Ages. In those dayes, Poetry and the looseness of the Theater, the debauches, and the excrements of Wit, were only valued and admired; and they received Elogies and Laurels, who invented new wayes of Debauchment, that could expresse themselves with the greatest smartness on Letchery and Extravagance: *V* Wit and Beauty have ever shared one Fate

the world ; when they are
 happily espoused to noble
 and illustrious Subjects ; or
 are given up to prostitu-
 tion and dishonour ; nei-
 ther have the lustfull Ages of
 the world dealt more barba-
 rously with that blushing
 sex, then with this virgin
 quality : and in how many
 productions transmitted from
 several times, shall we see the
 most excellent and vigorous
 younges, prostituted to the
 most base and detested Sub-
 jects, which infelicity they
 received from those times in
 which they lived, and they
 might have been more happy,
 had

had they conversed with
 bler Theams. Thus the
 putation of Learning,
 excellent Arts have well
 declined for want of Estim
 tion; Whilst all apply
 themselves to those things
 that procure the same and
 please, nothing is finer the
 corruption of nature so pernicious
 and extravagant as VV
 neither has any thing done
 a world greater mischief
 so haqualitvi: it has put
 tions into flames, filled
 wounds the bosome of
 Church; whether it has
 filled in Camps; man
 designs in Courts; or ha
 had

vortuous in low-roofed Cloysters
 all which places, the
 world has felt the smart of its
 cruelty: it has sometimes ru-
 ined by boisterous and bloody
 actions; at others by softness
 and flatteries: it has wound
 itself into all Interests and
 Affairs; and when it is not
 permitted to insult, to brave
 and to manage important
 concerns; it conceals
 itself, by a peculiar subtilty
 and bashfulness, from whence
 unsuspected it ruins and de-
 stroys: but this quality,
 is pernicious and unruly,
 comes much more sober and
 still in the temperaments

D

of

((50))

of Marriage. And which they call the dulling of the fancy, and the checking of the happy vigour, is but cashiering of that madness which all Ages have been bound to curse. V Vhen the woman was busied in matrimonial Concernments, Learning opened it self in all the flourish of a happy Knowledge spreading to Heavens Branches, and through Earths Roots: the easy and effeminate V Vit, was put out of countenance by the gravity of that appearance, and submitted willingly to more excellent affairs, to gain lesse

and reputation. Some men
 might have the fame of greater
 learning, but the Oracle
 pronounced Socrates the wisest
 Man of Greece. And to come
 nearer our times, where shall
 we find in any ages, so much
 foolishness and a dark igno-
 rance, as in those, that first
 allowed the solitary lives of
Priests, in which they gave a
 Proofs not of their conti-
 nence, but their vices. These
 daring men, who with their
 inhumane Decrees, control-
 led the influences of Nature;
 and could at their pleasure
 stem the Rapid Humidity:
 which dull Subjects of their
 D 2 bold

bold experiments, they deposited in *Cloysters*, those *Stoves* (too many of them) of wretched Lusts; which by the practices of beastly Crimes appeared no other then the *Jagues* of the world. In those *Ages* the Sun of Learning suddenly clapt in, and that duller day appeared little better then a night of knowing nothing; whilst the world seemed led by idle Phantasmes and foolish Illusions; preferring dreames full of unprofitable *Enigma's*, before the sentiments of waking ages. Those who were not serious were mad and unruly, those whose

blod interests

interests it was to appear so-
 lemn, were dull and blockish;
 with the opinion, they had
 of the learning of their An-
 cestours ; and justly were
 those times infatuated, that
 gave so great a wound to the
 noblest affairs of Nature:
 neither could so bold an in-
 junction have dared to appear
 times less dark and sooty.
 That Learning seems only
 to have loved the society of
 uxorious and modest ages,
 and to have received increase
 and favour from them.
 Marriage was moreover a mo-
 dell of the after governments
 of the V World : the dominion

of a Parent in his Family, is
 a true representation of the go-
 vernment of a just Prince
 who is the father of his Coun-
 try: men in this mirrour might
 have seen the agreeableness
 of Power and Empire; and
 with better inclinations might
 become obedient to an univer-
 sal head, whilst they plainly
 could perceive the advanta-
 ges of order and subjection in
 particular Families: had there
 been no distinction in Socie-
 ties, in which by the respect
 and obedience paid to some
 Persons, the advantages of
 Rule might be approved,
 men would never have been
 willing

willing to have parted with the
 most extravagant parts of their
 liberty, but all desires of
 sovereignty would have been
 supposed as Injustice and Ty-
 ranny; but by Marriage, and
 the issue of the Bed, men had
 within themselves a Lord-
 ship and Dominion, and the
 advantages of it evidently
 appearing, the intention of
 some excellent Person, and
 his desires to protect Coun-
 ties and Provinces, and to
 be their universal Head and
 Parent, was not received with
 that aversion, as they must have
 been, had they wanted those
 advantageous Presidents: and

I know not how to believe that all the Dominions of the Earth were founded in absolute Tyranny : and that they had at first no design of the good of Nations, which was accidentall, and found necessary for the security and quiet of Power ; since it is impossible for any Country to enjoy Peace, Riches, or Profit without the superiority of some or other. Marriage drew the Idea of Power, and imbellished it with those advantages that made it more pleasant to mankind, then had it been the rough draught of command, laid only in black

and

bloody Colours : with
 abhorrance had they
 the prospect of Domi-
 on, if they had only seen it
 sign'd by ambition, with
 the furies of Death and
 battles ; with a sullen and
 imperious look, having no
 about it propitious and
 ble, but ravenous and in-
 ous : but in the frame of
 edlock, it appears friend-
 and obligeing, reconciling
 thoughts of subjection,
 whilst it flourishes in all the
 etness of security and pro-
 It represents to us, that
 thoughtfulness and the cares
 Rule, are not in themselves

so excellent as the repose and
 pleasures of obedience, and
 he which enjoys his benefice
 secured to him, has rather what
 he should acknowledge with
 gratitude, then emulate in
 the industry and cares of his
 Governour; who though he
 wears more splendid Titles
 yet his watchings and his
 thoughtfulness, cover with
 paleness the tempting beauties
 of the other; none would
 desire to rule, that see the
 Luxuries of Power cut off
 by Lawes, and presided over
 by the waking designs for the
 common good: and like the
 Children of a Family, they
 willingly

willingly allow the Parent his
 command, whilst they receive
 maintenance and protection.
 In short, it affords to mankind
 convincing Proofs, that
 command and subjection are
 dispositions that may dwell
 together with great friendly-
 ness and advantage; and that
 the world could not tell how to
 live without their mingling In-
 terests; except not only all
 respect and decorum was
 thrown out of it, but also, ev-
 ery thing of profit and re-
 pose, and the thirst of all com-
 mand took place.

Neither has Marriage been
 propitious to Kingdomes
 in

in particular, then to the whole world in General. Whilst it brought in the grand foundation of their peace and quiet. For this (yet with no injury) fixes man to a settlement, and a contented condition of living, who if he should obey the force of no other arguments, yet the just consideration of his Family and Relations. would dispose him to peace and subjection: many men are sometimes tempted to be the instruments of fatal disorders to a Nation; whilst they have nothing to suffer but themselves in the calamities.

nities of ill success: few are so
 foolish, as to have no regard to
 the wellfare of those they love;
 who would by Treason cut
 from his Children a brave Ef-
 state, and leave them nothing
 but Poverty and the reproa-
 ches of his Crime to inherit:
 and we find that those who have
 been misled to these actions,
 as if they were with no thoughts more
 tender about them, then what
 to be taken from the calami-
 ty of their Children; and
 though some have broke
 through all these considerations
 and have neglected their dear-
 est interests, yet that does not
 improve the force they usual-
 ly

ly have upon our minds: in
 providing for those that come
 after us, which makes us in-
 dustrious, and sometimes peace-
 able and veruous too; what
 man would not be shok, and
 feel some remorse in his de-
 signes and projects of Ruine,
 that has a loving Wife leaning
 on his bosome, and innocent
 Children hanging about his
 knees; but he that lives alone,
 what design soever he drives
 at, he receives none of these
 Regrets and Remorses, but
 setting all things in himself
 cries, let the world stand and
 fall with me, and we have
 good reason to believe, that
 the

the unmarried lives of the
 Romish Priests, have been
 the causes of great calamities
 and disorders in Kingdoms,
 who are entertain'd in all Ca-
 sals of that nature, like the
 lives in the *Turkish* Councils,
 for the peculiar aversion which
 they bear to the tranquility of
 Nations. Men who have
 too much leisure, and too lit-
 tle dependance on a common
 interest, will freely play a-
 way their own share in any
 Kingdom, by its ruine, whilst
 there are so many *Cloysters* in
 other places to protect and re-
 ceive them: which appear the
Black Treasuries of fatal Events.
 their

their *Guardians* and *Superiors* flinging about those kindled fire-Brands, to inflame the world, who if they had a Family, and an interest settled to mind, would with less facility be disposed to act the Papall designs; and would take a great deal less pleasure in the disorders of Christendom. Marriage makes men look upon the peace and prosperity of the world with more concernment and delight, than those do who care only for themselves and their present satisfaction: Nay, there is a peculiar wandering humour, and a disposition of unrest in the single.

single life; and whilst the
 thoughts have no certain aime
 which to direct them, they
 are ever fleeting and uncon-
 stant: and the world from
 the Cloysters, has seen e-
 mitted the most unquiet and
 restless Principles, whilst
 dwelling in a perpetuall
 tranquillity themselves, knew
 not how else to imploy their lei-
 sure, cursed from above, as
 vain and unworthy, but by
 wrangling and perplexing
 the affairs of the Earth: from
 these disguised men, have
 arisen these Convulsions
 and dolefull Changes, which
 like fire disguised in Snow,
 insensible

insensibly destroyed their
 peace; whilst the veneration
 of their dissembled Sanctity
 protected them from the sus-
 pition of such devouring Prin-
 ciples. Marriage made men in-
 tent on the business of a Fa-
 mily, and endeavour to them-
 selves that tranquility and re-
 pose which a just Government
 affords them; because they
 may by those advantages improve
 the contentments and the in-
 terests of their families. But
 the single life, is usually in-
 clined to innovations and dis-
 tings of Power; because the
 variety whilst it pleases, it
 so injures none of those con-
 cernments

ments bound up in a single
 son: they may defend them-
 selves from the wound aimed
 at a solitary breast, who could
 so well protect the bosome
 of many; which under the
 conduct of a just care, and
 affection, would partake of
 equal tenderness. Whilst
 it displays its bloody En-
 emies to trembling Regions,
 whilst it covers with the M^u
 of many deaths the bo-
 dy of a Nation, what tra-
 gique Scenes are presented to
 the tender and affectionate,
 who whilst they are immortal
 by their own resolutions, yet
 often for their relations in
 cruel

cruel apprehensions ;
 dread the roling Torrent,
 bringing to unusual & so unkin
 a fate, in the losing of mo
 lives then one ; whilst th
 endure a death, must be su
 vived by fence. And for
 other advantages of Powe
 which are union of mindes
 Uxorious man opposes
 rous with the greatest forc
 & extravagancies (those bla
 dishing and soft destroyers
 Nations) with a passionate i
 dustry, because though
 may himself withstand the a
 fault, yet he fears their pr
 valency on those he loves
 those cruel opinions, the
 hav

set Nations on flames,
 those *Cyrcan* vices that
 charmed and devoured,
 been by none so resolute
 oppo'ed, as by him who pro-
 a Family from all their af-
 s. *flowers*
 afforded moreover to
 kind, the honour and de-
 of a hopefull Issue: no-
 was esteemed of old,
 an honour then many
 children, the issue of a law-
 Bed: the promising youth
 Child, returns a reputa-
 to the Father; and ma-
 men had been forgotten in
 Histories of Ages, had
 not been the Parents of
 Chil-

Children, who were famous
every Parent receives an hon-
our from the Vertues, and
the celebrated qualities of
offspring; tis a reputation
to have been the roote that bore
those Flowers, whose fairnes
and sweetness were pleasing
to the whole World: and
one Age like an unkind spirit
has but weakly assisted the
births of a Family, possible
next, has recompenced the
defect by a double propiti-
ousness; causing that Race to
renown'd in the following Ge-
nerations, that was not valu'd
in the former, whilst all the
Honours and Applauses,

bestowed without a just
 vexation on the Parent that
 hath them: neither is the de-
 light any thing inferior, if
 the excellent endowments of a
 stranger are pleasing to us, (as
 they doubtless are to every in-
 genious mind) what must be
 the accomplishments of them,
 whom we have brought into
 the world our selves? to be the
 parents of those that may prove
 successfull instruments for the
 good of Mankind, are blessings
 and contentments, not to be
 equalled by little things: and
 the actions of many men that
 have lived in the world, would
 have none of the Reputation
 they

they have yet acquired, if
 had not been for the con-
 sideration of their Families
 next to those interests, which
 we owe above, nothing is
 noble, so good, and so com-
 mendable, as to prosecute in
 wayes of Justice and Honour
 the interests of our Family
 in the pursuit of which has
 so been raised, all or most of
 the glorious Triumphs of ver-
 tue, Courage and Industry
 that the world has known
 at least they have on that ac-
 count received a more excel-
 lent and valued name than
 any other Interests could have
 given them; and who only for

flashes of a short fame,
 and with the hazard of his
 life, have alter'd the go-
 vernment of Kingdomes, have
 led remote as well as neigh-
 bouring Provinces to the tri-
 umph of his Throne; who would
 have expos'd himself to the
 various accidents of the Deep,
 have fought unknown
 battles in Countries bar-
 barous unconquered and un-
 conversed, if he had not hoped
 to have left them as the Pa-
 trimony of his Family? and
 on Death-beds, have
 as well as serious men,
 such excellent instructi-
 on to their Children, of keep-
 ing

ing up the honour and
 tation of their Names, as if
 interest they should take
 it remain'd beyond the Grave.
 Agrippina doted so much
 the Imperial dignity of
 Son Nero, as to cry out,
ecidat modo imperet: let Me Die
 so He may Reign. Neither
 have those who by rashness
 ambition, fell into calamities
 received more mournful
 apprehensions, then what
 took from a reflexion on
 Families. And nothing
 more remarkable, then
 Tragedy, which he wrote
 himself acted on himself
 which he was transported by

torm

(75)

ment of such Reflexions.
Who sees not with an agree-
able pleasure, his name spread
and flourish in a vertuous
offspring, erected there
living Monuments to serve
the immortality of Ages,
Whilst others have vainly con-
ceived it, in actions of their
valour; or in magnificent
graves: the first slumber-
ing in the imbellishments of
History, where it is only ad-
mired; the other is sometimes
resorted to by the curious
Wanderer, who observes the
workmanship without ap-
parently being concern'd for the
shaded Ashes: the noble

E 2

Greek,

Greek, who wanting Issue
 was forced to adopt his
 Victories, to perpetuate
 his Name, knew well en-
 ough, that they were a bar-
 ren and distressed off-spring
 and which must be forced to
 live on the benevolence of
Pedants, and the charity of
 Ages: whilst a Son might
 have maintained through suc-
 cession, that glory in the Son
 shine of generous actions
 which was forced to retire to
 shade. Neither do the
 urge any thing important
 who object the miscarriage
 of some mens Issue, since there
 is a precaution not at all al-
 lowe

wowed in the concernments
 the world: and never to
 tempt for fear of a miscar-
 age, is a distrust only pre-
 valent with the ignoble: if
 any time the glory of a
 place may be under a cloud
 for one Generation, it may
 in the next shine out with
 charming lustre and bright-
 nesses. **That Parent is just**
 and wise, who leaves the Prin-
 ciple, and Providence to
 fashion the increase; and he
 takes the conduct from a bet-
 ter hand, who is unreason-
 ably fearful of the Events to
 come: neither would any
 truly studious of the inter-

ests of Nature, and the advantages of an off-spring, impede both, by such vain fears. Who neglects the rich Voyages of the *Indians*, because some have suffered Ship-wracks? neither do any decline to reap Laurels in the Field, because they grow with Cypress. To be guided by the present just and pleasing inclination, and to leave the success to the conduct above us, is the only management can give contentment & pleasure to mortal men. Children are the most excellent way of perpetuating our memory, and to afford

the delight of seeing our
 as preserved from a sud-
 den forgetfull, and we may
 all submit to the satisfaction
 such thoughts, without
 troubling our selves with fu-
 re miscarriages.

Marriage does also perpet-
 uate the memory and dig-
 nity of vertue. It is true it
 sometimes happens that a Son
 is not only unlike his Father,
 but so different, as to be a
 shame and reproach to his
 memory ; but yet usually,
 the great qualities of the
 Parent live in the Children,
 having the advantages of
 their examples and instructi-

E 4: ons;

ons; and at least, if their
 vertue is much the weaker,
 yet supported by the Fathers
 memory, it becomes strange-
 ly usefull beloved and respect-
 ed in the world: the Chil-
 dren of some Men, who have
 been the Authors of great
 benefits and good offices to
 Kingdomes, have served ma-
 ny happy occasions in the
 world, who yet have had no
 great Merit of their own to
 boast off: nothing is so much
 idolized, nor respected by
 the generality of People as
 a mighty Name; and a ver-
 tue possible in it self much
 the greater, found in a Per-
 son

not famous, cannot yet
 those things which the bare
 reputation of some others is a-
 ble to perform: In the Ci-
 Wars of *France*, the autho-
 of a Prince of the Blood,
 could easily hush those com-
 ments, & produce that obe-
 dience to Discipline, which
 the courage, arts and per-
 fections of inferior Captains
 could never do. He that
 seeks triumphs of Glory and
 honour, does not only in-
 form himself where he is a-
 dored, but sets his Posterity
 in a sacred place: and with
 only Name, appeases the
 duties of Armies, pre-
 sides

sides in Courts, and
 keeps the affairs of the
 world in order. How
 the world suffered, if a Per-
 son, who by many generous
 actions became the darling
 of Mankind, neglecting to
 transmit a Copy, from so be-
 loved & glorious an Original
 had set at once, in his Being
 & his Race. In ancient Wars
 Infants have been carryed
 to encourage Battles, thereby
 with their unactive blood
 strangely animateing the veins
 of others. And it has more-
 over, been found to work
 much upon the disposition
 of humane nature, a kind of
 gallant

allant affection, for the me-
 mory of some glorious Per-
 son, left to the guidance of a
 powerful hand: such Efforts
 served the Race of the *Afric-*
ans, and the *Gothick* Hero:
 procuring to the world this,
 to relieve and benefit together,
 that he which leaves his ver-
 y Orphan, may have e-
 rected for it, the Hospitals
 stately Tombs, and the
 Panegyricks of History;
 but he that would have it
 lasting and usefull, as well as
 admired must leave it to his
 issue, where in the active
 Torrent of generous perform-
 ances, it may accumulate,
 the

the same glory and esteem is
 found in the dayes of an *Ancest*
our, to be only admired is a bar-
 ren advantage, to be useful
 and to be beloved, is what the
 truly noble rather cover
 which is found in the vertues
 and good offices of our Race
 Marriage did also enlarge
 the Sphear, and establish
 occasions of practical Vertue
He that is married has more
 compass, and a larger field of
Action: he usually procures
 more benefits to the world
 at least more substantial
 and better grounded; he
 that is alone lives to this age,
 but he that is married (by
 the

the force of embraces causes)
 ves to those Generations
 which stand next, the worlds
 Calenture and burning
 Pompey did not only
 fight himself for the Liber-
 ties of Rome, 'till he was its
 greatest and mighty Sacri-
 fice, but left also those gal-
 lant Sons, who bravely en-
 deavoured to revive it when
 faint and dying. The pra-
 ctical virtues that belong to
 this life, as they are more,
 they are more considerable
 in the married State; Spe-
 culation how ever pleasing
 to some tempers, yet if it be
 not altogether Divine, is a
 thing

thing of little advantage,
 especially to the world, and
 that is the measure of every
 excellent quality, the be-
 nefit of the generall world
 infinite thinking, that de-
 signes no other advantage
 but the private satisfaction
 of him that is busied in it,
 is but an ingenious sort of
 idleness; and moreover
 the mischief the world has
 received by those strange o-
 pinions, invented by men
 who enjoyed a perpetual
 Vacation from affairs, re-
 main too great a reproach
 of idle Speculation: the
 thoughts of men are perpetu-
 all

ally working, and wanting
 no entertainments of good
 and useful objects, pursue
 pleasant and agreeable Ideas,
 that were never yet alter'd
 by action; and which are
 equally unprofitable to
 themselves and others. But
 he that has the interests of
 a Family, to mind, and
 more substantial concern-
 ments than a name, which
 like the *Camelion*, lives on
 air, bounds with those hap-
 py limits the extravagance
 of his fancy. And the
 things he has to manage, con-
 sist in most particulars of the
 best virtue, & the most practi-
 call

call advantages that are found
 in humane Society. How
 many glorious actions, and
 instances of bravery of mind,
 have took their Original
 from the calamities of a Pa-
 rent, or the distresses of a
 Child; & without doubt, the
 world had wanted the great-
 est part of its illustrious Presi-
 dents of vertue, had not the
 affections and tenderesses
 of these Relations, been the
 Motives and powerfull In-
 ducements to them: many
 indeed, (but unjustly) cry
 out of Marriage, as a condi-
 tion of care and perplexities,
 and celebrate single living,
 for

its freedom and repose:
 first, let us ask them,
 whether found in a mortal
 state, that tranquility they
 pretended to admire:
 complexities and troubles
 as well invaded the
 shades of the most quiet Re-
 poses as the affairs and acti-
 vities of Families: and who
 shew us that condition
 of life under the Sun, that
 even and undisturbed?
 Marriage has cares it has no
 more than other conditions;
 nay possibly they are more
 supportable in the gravity
 and charm of those concern-
 ments, than where they assault

mad and wild humour
 weary of every thing. But
 then let us tell them, more
 over, that it has advantages
 blessings, and societies that
 they have not attained: that
 they can shew us the life of
 some rude Philosopher, who
 in his retirements from the
 World, boasted of quietness
 repose, (though that has ap-
 peared not Gallantry, but
 Sullenness in him) we can
 shew them many examples of
 glorious men, living not on-
 ly contentedly, but admired
 and beloved in the eyes of
 Matrimony, spreading their
 useful qualities over the
 Universe;

verse ; whilst the Stoick
 permitted his virtue to
 up and wither, in the
 of his own humour :
 des difficult and hard ac-
 quirements are the triumphs
 of virtue, that mind shines
 in no Lustre at all, which
 not been brightned with
 such affairs, owing (as
 Body) its vigour and
 strength to motion and la-
 bour. Moreover, the tri-
 umph is the sweetest that is
 purchased with the most
 industry ; the ambitious
 looks on those acquisitions
 with contempt which are ea-
 sily got, and loves the high-
 est

est steps, because it is the hardest coming there. And such Motives have we received from above, to procure advantages to the world, that nothing relishes better to the mind; nor is received with greater esteem and applause, than difficult Services: the Romans even loaded those with Triumphs, at their return home, and erected them Statues, who had served the Common-wealth in the greatest dangers and toyles so that to speak ill of Marriage, only out of a humour of repose and sluggishness

(93)

to own the greatest re-
proach and scandall in the
world. When they passed
the house of that great Se-
nator, who retired from the
allant affairs of the Repub-
lique, and spent his time in a
dreaming idleness, they use
to say, here *Vatia* lyes bury-
ed: whom have all Ages al-
lowed for Heros? whom
have they *Deified* and serv'd
with Altars? not the lazy
and the speculative, not the
sycerous and injurious,
but those who applyed them-
selves to court humane Race
with kindneses and bene-
fits: and they have met
with

with the most lavish El
gies and Praises, who we
the most lavish of their Blo
and Abilities to obli
the world. Now he th
acts with the multiplic
ty of Instruments, is cap
ble of effecting more; then
that contrives one end; ho
great soever the sufficiency
of one man may be, yet
shines but with a solit
ry Vertue, without th
erradiations of an o
spring: Neither has t
Coate of Nobleness be
perfectly blazon'd, b
with our Issue.

an excellent person may do
 much for the world with his
 own sufficiency, but he doubly
 obliges it, who in a Seminary
 of Heroes, is continually pro-
 ducious to it; & then as for the
 particular Exercises of virtue
 in that condition, we shall find
 them no where to have such
 powerful Motives: For whom
 was reserved the Conquest of
 Ilium, and the foundations
 of an Empire, which *Phoenix*
 rose richer from the Ashes
 of *Ilium*, but for that *Æneas*,
 bore with so exemplary a Pi-
 ety, bore his Father through
 Flames; by which he be-
 came more Renow'd, then
 that defended, and
 F *Achilles*

Achilles that assisted *Troy*
Rome once owed its being
 and its safety, to the autho-
 rity and perswasions of
Mother, and that *Hero* receiv-
 ed from his duty a temper-
 ment of mind, hard to be
 found in successles, and at the
 head of Armies: Neither
 could the present Conquest
 and Revenge, have so much
 served the glory of *Coriolanus*,
 as that famous Act of his
 duty; nothing is so noble
 as the pity which presides
 on the power to ruine, and
Rome had doubtless wanted
 its effects, had it not been
 inspired by a revered *Eldest*
 quence

The Barbarian
 though no death unwel-
 come, but accompanied with
 the assassination of his Bro-
 ther, and he could support
 without regret the company
 of his own fate, who would
 willingly have fled from that
 his Relation. If the
 poets have not framed artifi-
 cially the Scene of the gene-
 rous *Corinthian*, she owed all
 those charming Actions they
 celebrated, to the Idea's
 of her duty; neither was her
 arrival defective in the beauty
 of those performan-
 ces, but only by the want
 of the ascendant: And there

are infinite other Instances
in the occurrences of Age
that acknowledge particular
Obligations to the Matrimonial Relations.

It did moreover assist Mankind with a mind vigorous and constant in its Circles. Virtue loses its lustre and strength, when it is obliged to wander in various entertainments; Marriage gives the thoughts a Home, and an Employment, that would else be traversing the ends of the Earth. Neither shall we find any men of a more manly Gallantry, nor a nobleness all of a piece, as amongst those

those who have been happy
 in this Relation, and great
 lovers of the Interests of it :
 some men may have exceed-
 ed in politick Arts, and in
 the Stratagems of Conquest ;
 but I very much question,
 whether ever any Age (in
 the Heathen world) brought
 forth any thing more excel-
 lent or more beloved, then
 the virtue of *Pompey*, and
Scipio ; men not only Re-
 giously prizing the Married
 State, but such as were blessed
 with the Society of those
 women, that for the returns
 of love and kindness were
 famous in every Generation.

We choose Friendship, as a
 Field for virtue to reap ad-
 vantage in, and none but
 retired and treacherous Na-
 tures will be without the
 blessings of that: but beyond
 all question, that Friendship
 is the noblest, bound in the
 surest Ligaments, and pene-
 trates more the recesses of
 the Heart, than is commenced
 in Marriage, then any tool
 up on other Scores: Some
 are pleased to cry down
 that Sex, as foolish and unfit
 for the conversation of men
 but they seem in that too
 much to overvalue them-
 selves, and to set strange
 prizes

prizes on their own worth :
 that if there are not found
 women, whose heads are
 filled with the crabbed no-
 tions of Philosophy, who
 have no great insight into
 significant and unsociable
 the arts, the knowledge of
 these things could constitute
 nothing but barren and ridi-
 culous friendships; that which
 is more generous, more plea-
 sant and useful, is as well to
 be found in that Sex, as in
 our own; who that is wise,
 expects in this Relation, a
 rump of Knowledge and
 Capacities, or an agreement
 with all our Chimera's and
 F 4 Punctilios

Punctilio's, is she unfit for
 that society, who cannot
 chop Logick with the Scho-
 ler? that cannot please the
 Historian with giving him an
 account of the Original of
 Empires where the Sun rises
 nor the affairs of Kingdoms
 where the Sun goes down, or
 that cannot name him the
 Fields where have been
 fought famous Battels, nor
 tell those Conquerors, that
 there swept into their Lap
 the mighty stakes of the
 worlds Monarchy; or that
 though she can love as well
 as *Portia* and *Cornelia*; yet
 they cannot recount him the
 particular

particular Gallantries of
 these Roman Ladies, they
 must surely make a very fan-
 tick Standard, who mea-
 sure the fitness of that Rela-
 tion by such an odd agreea-
 bleness: Humane Race is to
 be supported and rend-
 ered happy by a substantial
 virtue, and not by little Pun-
 ilios and affectations; It
 has been such Whimseys that
 have lost the excellent affairs
 of the world, and men placing
 their contentments in such
 idle likenesses, have negle-
 cted, to pursue what were the
 most useful concernments
 of humane Life. Nature

E 5 has

has set out the measure by which that Sex is found for our Society, which consists of something more important than the pleasing of our vain humours: the Interests of the world were at first common, and men intended the good of the whole; but the envy, the preciousness and fullness of after-times, made infinite inclosures, and men laid out all that stock on the little portions of their fancy, which should have been employed in the publick Banke of the Universe: And whilst they have pretended to refine hu-
man

by the same Society ; They have
 made its profitable Affairs
 evaporate into nothing ;
 neither have they left any
 thing of those grave and pre-
 sident Interests ; but some
 wild and thin Idea's, which
 they have in sport, hunted
 through the barren Regi-
 ons of Philosophy, and along
 the fairy Travels of Poe-
 ntry.

Marriage has also appear-
 ed excellent for the educati-
on of Mankind, which was
 the next thing important to
 his being; without that, as
 his Affairs now stand, he had
 come into the world an Ex-
 travagant,

travagant, abhorring Laws,
 and the Regularities of
 Society, and his Reason rising
 at an Age after his mind
 had been rude and barbarous
 for want of discipline, it
 would not easily have been
 able to subdue the wildness
 of his youth: Nay, all its
 performances, had been but
 ill and imperfect Draughts,
 whilst it wanted compleated
 Images and Idea's to draw
 by, its natural propensities
 would have designed some-
 thing, but the world
 cou'd never have known
 what to have called it; but
 Marriage has been in all
 Ages

Ages the Repository of disci-
 pline, and excellent Idea's: in
 the School, they are not only
 taught but revered; here is
 learned modesty, respect and
 subjection; affectation and
 stubbornness are betimes
 cashiered; the fleeting and
 inconstant fancy directed
 to an aim, and kept sted-
 fast by a peculiar authori-
 ty; Marriage is the Garden
 where the Flowers of Youth
 are preserved in their fresh-
 ness and vigour, whereas the
 open discipline of the world
 is like the rudeness of a de-
 sert, where they grow wild,
 and

and neglected, the sense of shame, and the fear of vice are preserved under this management, and influenced from this lower Sphere, whilst the general defection had made them difficult to be seen above; but besides this condition has laid an Obligation on the Parent, to look after the Education of his Children; and if there had not been such an institution, in which, it was both our duty and our reputation too to look after our Issue, the Children of many had been neglected, and perished without a name, or any considerable acquirements; but
 now

now, those persons who
 have strangely overcome, and
 worn out the impression of
 what they owe to God, and
 their own affections are yet
 careful of their reputation,
 and the esteem of their
 Race, as to Educate their
 Children in those ways by
 which they may be capable
 of serving the Common-
 wealth, and live with credit;
 had not Marriage been insti-
 tuted, when the lustful youth
 had satisfied his appetite, 'tis
 likely he would have aban-
 doned the wretched Mother
 with her Infant, to the in-
 counters of various sorrows,
 and the Children of the
 great

great and the Noble , had
 been Rocked in Cottages,
 and all their dayes followed
 the Plough ; but now there
 are sacred Channels cut, in
 which one stream of peculiar
 and distinguished Blood,
 perpetually runs from one
 Generation to another ; and
 we find, that even the most
 extravagant and voluptuous,
 are yet careful of that cur-
 rent ; using all the industry
 imaginable to make it noble
 and imbelished ; thinking it
 not enough to continue their
 greatness, but their virtues
 also ; They endeavour to
 fashion and to sweeten
 youth,

youth, that it may be grate-
 ful and accomplished, when
 comes to be opened in the
 affairs of the world, to
 his purpose are the severity
 of Chastisements, the variety
 of Instructions, and the re-
 presenting of differing Ex-
 amples ; not only those that
 have rendered virtue fair and
 agreeable ; but such also
 that shew a loathsomeness, a
 degeneracy and abhorrency
 in vice, by such variety of
 Wayes, fashioning them in-
 to the habit of excellent
 qualities ; which per-
 formances have set so many accom-
 plished Persons into the
 world,

world, who if they had met
 with Parents less careful
 they might have missed the
 esteem and veneration which
 Ages have paid them :
 it is true, that the force of
 Genius sometimes supplies
 the defect of a Parent ; but
 where they both assist, are
 the most excellent pieces of
 humane perfection ; and
 though Nature often does
 much, yet we many times
 find, that those persons are
 to seek in the turns of Hu-
 mane Affairs, and in the
 artful Traverses of Glory
 who have not been very well
 furnished with great variety

me Images: and from hence has
 the defect that spoil'd
 the whole frame of an He-
 roick virtue, design'd by
 some persons. In some
 of them we have observed a
 single assiduity in the quest
 but glorious Atchievements,
 amidst yet a diligent Remin-
 ds, will see more of affection
 and earnestness, then a hand-
 some dexterity in that pur-
 suit. There is a sleight in
 humane Affairs; which
 though Nature may some-
 times happen on it, yet can
 never hit it with so much
 certainty and success as Art;
 and hence it is, that a great
 draught

draught of an Heroick virtue is fain to be taken from many, because no one person appears furnisht with those various Colours. Some men have excelled for the number and Art of the Conquests; but the world has seen them subdued by power from the Rosters. *Achilles's* Shield was afterwards won by a virtue, different from that in which its owner excelled: the crafty *Italian*, with his single Conduct wound about the bravery and vigour of the *French* Affairs, which perfection in any endowment, has arisen from

from a happy Education,
 acting with a good Geni-
 and where it willingly
 lines an accomplishment,
 yet submits to the force of
 discipline. So that to
 marriage the world owes the
 education of Mankind, and
 consequence their fitness
 usefulness to Humane
 Affairs, which is a great ad-
 vantage, because the security
 having our Issue well edu-
 cated, is thereby established,
 and that care taken for the
 coming Generation, which
 our fathers had of ours; which
 is so important a reflection
 on the *Series* of succession.

Marriage

Marriage did more
 prevent the inconveniences
 and extravagancies of
 rambling Love; for with
 disorder and distraction
 there been in the world,
 an impetuous and lawless
 appetite had been subject to
 no Conduct; but that the
 fancy placing it self upon an
 Object, had presently tran-
 sported the owner to all man-
 ner of violent actions, till
 serve its mad desires; Cities
 had been consumed to Ashes,
 Houses left desolate, and
 filled with groans, only for
 the ravishment of a beautiful
 Prey: The Affairs of the
 State

te had been neglected, or
 dily wounded for the ac-
 rements of an idle Love,
 such is the violence of
 Passion, and such its
 ravagancies, when it is
 no moderation by
 religion, and excellent Laws:
 he power of Conquest had
 a sufficient Title to the
 objects we had coveted,
 we had felt no remorse,
 have taken them from
 between the Arms where
 they had spent many years
 endearments of Love:
 No Nation could have
 nourished, nor have been
 successful in its Affairs, if
 a

a wanton Flame had consumed the manly temper and vigour of the Youth; or if their passions had not transported them to such violent Actions, yet the gentlest concerns of those Flames, made them incapable of serving the Commonwealth and the Interests of Human Society, and what was running to publick Houses of Lust, the contriving secret Cabals, and private assignations, the Animosities and Jealousies of Rivalship, the prodigality of amorous addresses, had took up all that

time, and baffled all
 advantages with which
 should have serv'd
 Generations: Whilst
 they had followed these de-
 sires, ill humour, restlessness
 in the thoughts, and inconfi-
 dent Actions had been the
 necessary Companions to
 them; therefore there was
 great wisdom in that
 law amongst the Jews, that
 they should live unmarried
 for such an Age: All wise
 prudent Governments
 knew they should have little
 order and less Industry,
 were the affairs of an idle
 passion possessed the Hearts
 G and

and Heads of their Subject
 Marriage more inclines
 mind to serious and necessary
 business, then the wandering
 Lusts of Stews and Con-
 bines; and even in the
 Countries, where Religion
 and many Loves have been
 allowed, the serious and
 wise are grown weary
 their liberty, as produced
 those distractions, which
 unfit the mind for other
 things; Neither would the
 disorders of that passion be
 only been injurious to the
 present times, but have
 treacherously wronged posterity
 which we may perceive

Extravagants of this
 age, who live in a strang
 left of those that come
 them: They care not
 becomes of the next
 generation, so they may Riot
 live voluptuously in
 ; they have received by
 session a travelling Inte-
 ; which they are to
 infinit downward, it being
 journey through all the
 es of the world, but by
 Extravagancies and ex-
 les by their new wit, and
 modish vices, they for-
 its affairs, they affront
 gravity, they stop its pro-
 , and it is like to be

known by after years without esteem and veneration and this is that Age which like to be branded among all the Lustres of succession as the most dissingenuous that ever was, who have answered the Remonstrances of the worlds important Interests with Rascaldry, and a lascivious Song they have affronted them by the most unworthy practice & gave them to understand that the divertisements of *Drolls* and *Buffoons* were more valued by them than the gravity and prudence of their Fathers

these sottish incounters
 bear the consequences of
 neglect of Marriage, by
 which the bosom of civil
 affairs has received those
 wounds, which the dexterity
 and skill of coming Ages will
 not easily Cure: that neg-
 ligence and lightness, that pre-
 sumptuousness and inad-
 verty in our concern-
 ments, as have brought upon
 the world so much disorder
 and inconvenience: No man
 makes it his business to be
 serious in any thing, but to
 pass his time with diversion and
 jollity, even his poverty
 and want, which are

all deplorable effects, of the
 injustice that the present
 times have done to Mar-
 riage. In fine, that condit-
 ion has applied the minds of
 men to that industry and
 care, which as they have
 contributed to the peace and
 the repose of the universe
 so they have produced those
 excellent things, that became
 pleasant and dear to human
 Race; the productions that
 have been besides it, were
 rather for splendour than
 use, and a gay show, with-
 out the company of use
 profit: The world has been
 diverted with pleasant Ideas

thru a fair arrangement
 of amiable things; but the
 performances of this condi-
 tion, have exhibited what
 is useful and necessary.
 and waſton humour, and
 airy fancy may be plea-
 sed by the ſolitary Hero's,
 the luxurious have in-
 vaded the good of man-
 kind; and if we diligently
 ſurvey the Interſt of the
 world, we ſhall find them
 wanted for the Society of the
 married life, and that they
 will receive a ſtop and a pre-
 judice by the introducing of
 other concerns; the
 conſtitution of them muſt
 be

be changed, and a new habit introduced, before the world can look well under the practice of different opinions. How happily it has succeeded with these Experiments, what it has come to under the Discipline of such a practice, will sufficiently appear by looking backward; the Powers it has established; the mingling Interest it has confirmed; the mutual stock of benefits it has settled; and the great tranquility of all things; sufficiently prove that nothing could have been more propitious to the world than that condition.

Neither

either does it serve less
 actually our particular
 aims; if we look beyond
 contentments of a pre-
 sent and a fading appetite to
 those which arise from a long
 succession, stretched with e-
 stem and reputation: to
 when we are dead
 and gone, in a happy issue,
 much better, then only
 some Moments to be re-
 owned, to set in the Circle
 Marriage, agreeable Ob-
 jects always to entertain our
 action and our thoughts,
 much happier, then by
 little Artifices of time,
 be ever subject to delusi-
 ons;

ons; who does not, the
 pretends to reason, the
 more pleasure in managing
 the Interests of a Family
 and a lasting name, than
 humouring a short lived in-
 clination: and such Affairs
 have happily assisted the
 virtue of many persons, who
 thus diverted an injurious
 pleasure; and as the Poet as-
 cribed, the effeminacy of the
 Greek to his idleness; so the
 want of a just Interest to
 manage, has brought in most
 of those inconveniences that
 are found in the world
 and that pleasantness and
 gayness, which is childish
 called

called good humour, so
 much idolized in the single
 life, what is it but a trifling
 and strange impertinence!
 Nothing without all conduct
 and prudence, and after the
 follies of youth are over,
 then insupportable to those
 who have the most adorned
 All excesses in nature u-
 sually produce the other ex-
 cesses; so the most aspiring
 monarchs have often turned
 jesters, shrouding the glo-
 ries and lustres of Regal
 Majesty in the Sables of a
 cloyster, and men excessive-
 voluptuous, grow strang-
 e, neglected and solitary
 when

when they are old: What judgment can we pass on this, any otherwise then that they lavishly spend the prudent stocks of Nature, which becoming bankrupt by excessive practices, they are after forced to yield to the humours, which speak the wants and poverties of Nature. Marriage is suited to the just temperament of things; whilst the other practices consist in those excesses that exhaust and debilitate nature; which like ground too much used, grows languid and unfruitful, the mediocrity is that which

which was designed in the
 affairs of the universe: And
 who takes them out of
 their Channel, makes them
 overflow all things of pru-
 dence and advantage, neither
 will they be any longer use-
 ful and excellent when they
 grow irregular: It is enough,
 that by the allotments and
 discipline transmitted to us,
 we may live with solace and
 advantage; but if we neg-
 lect those Rules, we can ex-
 pect nothing but disorder
 and confusion. Marriage
 has hitherto defended the
 interests and the repose
 of the world from an ex-
 travagancy

travagancy that in all Ages
 has endeavoured to assault
 them : And whilst Mankind
 grow weary of so brave and
 successful a defence : It is
 well if they find out another
 equal to it, though it is very
 much to be feared, that these
 little Arts on which they
 rely, will soon let them see
 the error of that fancy,
 when they must call to their
 assistance a greater force
 then what their Poets, or
 their new Philosophers can
 bring them, and the sad ef-
 fects of this gayness, and these
 Chymera's, will easily be
 resigned for the other useful
 and

Ages and practical seriousness,
 when their modish humours,
 their refined and elevated
 fancies, their careless and
 unaffected fashioning of
 things, together with their
 courageous and profound
 searches into Nature, will
 appear the flights of those
 impericks that have undone
 the world, and if we shall
 not be capable of so much
 repentance as to curse our
 selves, our posterity will do
 for us, for sending them
 into the world, rather fit for
 Hospitals, or for Bedlam,
 than the Affairs of a just
 and happy life! To whom
 the

the good nature of their fathers, for being so easily abused, will appear a horrid crime to their Issue, whilst they take to themselves what they called a wild pleasure, but left to these a serious smart, and they must apply themselves to that Marriage, that was injured and affronted by their Fathers, which can only free them from the Tyranny of those practices, to whom they had given the Dominion, whose novelty and great liberty so far prevailed upon them, as to forget their Obligations, and their own Affairs, and without

at any remorse to see Sa-
 crificed the being of many
 families, and the prosperity
 and contentment of others,
 whose wafts and ruines de-
 are by whom they have
 been plundered : Neither
 all that fantastick Disci-
 pline, under which they
 foolishly endeavour to put
 their extravagant practises,
 bring any security and bene-
 fit to the world, which be-
 sides its standing on an un-
 stable foundation, can reach
 to nothing but a security
 from *Bravos*. Marriage
 knows all the Traverses and
 Turns of Humane Affairs,
 and

and stands on a foundation
of Natures laying : Nei-
ther will that be trans-
mitted down for right
that has been wrong and in-
justice in every Age : But
we may imagine, they en-
deavour not to bring their
designs to perfection, lest
they should too near resem-
ble the abhorred Wedlock
they can hardly invent any
thing wild enough, and de-
bauched enough for their
own practices, their appetites
call upon them for new ex-
travagancies ; and those who
furnish them with variety,
are at a loss to contrive fast
enough

enough to please them.
 Whilst we have thus Sir,
 drawn the *Portrait* of Mar-
 riage, and reckon'd up its
 advantages, if we reflect upon
 what we shall find the injustice
 that some men have done it:
 for those who admire
 sociable and solitary tem-
 pers, they can have but slender
 pleas to an excellent mind:
 Nature design'd no man to
 be that vanity, as to be taken
 up with the contemplation
 of his own endowments, like
 the fantastick youth, who
 made love to, and died for
 himself: The only way to
 take a right view of our
 own

own good qualities, is to see them in less flattering *Mirrors*, and to have them drawn by those advantages and benefits we communicate to others: He that gathers all, his great endowments into his own Breast, and keeps them there, like *Roses* that grow in *Desarts*, he dies uncommended and uninjoyed: all virtue is diffusive, and loves occasions to exercise its vivacy and vigour; and what we carry about us, sufficiently declares that we were not designed to be happy alone; whilst both the solace of the mind,
and

and an endeared life, consist
 in an union with something
 different ; the brightest Co-
 ours owe their vivacy to the
 shade, and Nature has set
 virtue like Diamonds in Jet,
 within the Circle of diffi-
 cult services : And I cannot
 remember, that ever the Cloy-
er, that great Receptacle
 of the drowsy life, did ever
 oblige the world by many
 excellent performances ; we
 know very well what poi-
 soned Arrows have been shot
 from those Coverts, that
 have pained and enraged the
 bosom of many Ages ; but
 they are yet to give a proof
 of

their kindness to Human
 Nature, and their present
 carelessness and vices, have
 put us beyond all hope of
 expecting it. But yet, in
 another sort of speculation
 which we are to accuse in
 these reflections. Some there
 are, who with great folly and
 injustice, make Marriage the
 subject of their reproaches
 we do not accuse any for
 embracing the single life
 whose Virtue is strong en-
 ough to bear them through
 all the hazards of youth and
 inclination, but yet, those
 who do this, ought to do
 it be with less pride and as-
 sumption

station: But that is the
 strange rudeness of the pre-
 sent sentiments, to mock at
 all practices that are different
 from their own; and though
 such light discourses will
 weigh very little with wise
 and prudent Persons, yet
 unexperienced youth is apt
 to be affected with things
 confidently delivered, though
 there be sometimes little
 substance in them, but this is
 not only the matter of
 conversation, but the ad-
 vanced Theme of some wri-
 tings, and being a subject
 capable of keenness, and
 something of novelty, men
 endeavour

endeavour to raise the reputation of wit on that foundation: But I wish they would consider with how much dissingenuity and unworthiness they do it: Never did any Age so thirst after the fame of being Wits, yet no Age has acquired so ineffectually that Title; It is not sure impossible for men of such great abilities as they give themselves out to be, to please and instruct the world at once, and not to build the Triumphs of their Eloquence, on the ruins of their Morals? How little reason has Mankind to admire

admire them, who furnish
 with wit at so dear a rate:
 they may tell us, that
 affected *Pedants*, capable
 of no generosity, have for a
 while wounded the bo-
 some of sacred and civil
 feelings, but we are astonish-
 ed to see those who pretend
 to be Gentlemen of great
 breeding and nobleness to
 exceed their crime, and how
 unhappy ought they to re-
 deem themselves, that the
 most proof which they give
 of their injustice to humane
 affairs, and their ingratitude
 to their Fathers, should be
 the most important, and

H

most

most excellent concerns
 of the universe: They
 have introduced infinite
 Punctilio's of respect, and
 observance, they pretend to
 correct the bluntness, and
 obsequiousness of past Ages
 but they wound the sub-
 stance, whilst they adorn
 the shadow, and we expect
 from them to shew that re-
 spect, which is so powerful
 a part of their Genius, to the
 most important concerns
 which have been
 revered in the world, and
 beneficial to Humane Race,
 they must exercise that doc-
 trine on wit of theirs, let them
 choose

loose & subject more agree-
 able to the Interest and com-
 mon of Mankind; and let
 them think it to be a little
 inde, to reproach the pra-
 ctice of their Fathers, and
 the greatest part of the
 world, which they do in
 speaking against Marriage:
 and never many Ages had
 more trifling Gallantries;
 and yet none was ever more
 in love with them, or great
 pacifiers, able to be serious,
 modest and unaffected; but
 now he that owns a little
 wit, makes such a noise
 with it, as to disturb the
 quiet and the serious Affairs

of the world. If they would
have his admittance into great
abilities, let them give us
more excellent proof of
them, let them again rescue
those interests which they
have betrayed, or else pre-
tend to merit nothing, but
the reproaches and curses of
the world. But that which
is yet a more important in-
jury to Marriage, is a certain
humour and opinion taken
up by some people, that it is
a piece of Gallantry and good
Breeding, to divert our selves
with sacred Wedlock, as an
extraordinary proof that we
have overcome the Flegm of

degenerate complexion;
we spend all our life in
flicking. There is ano-
ther accusation, that belongs
to these reflections; and that
of those who are of this
condition, whose affection
it ought to be commend-
ed; but their follies and in-
cretions ought to be accu-
sed: It is not always found,
that a good intention can
keep it self from the blemishes
of an ill conduct, and the fol-
lies of many Persons, have
undred some things ridicu-
lous, that would have sup-
ported their gravity. In a
better management in this
H 3 enquiry,

enquiry, the subject is ex-
tream nice and critical, and
so ought to be managed with
great wariness and circum-
spection; besides, to pry
into the misdeeds of others
in close communion is a little
impudent; but yet our or-
dinary conversation and ne-
tice will furnish us with this
belief, that many commit
those follies in Wedlock, that
become matter of diver-
sement to some Persons, and
and an extream scandal to
others. One great cause
to be ascribed of this, is
that men live narrowly, and
to their particular inclinations,

vnus

H

ons,

ns, and humours, forgetting
 at they are to support a
 common concernment; and
 may very well believe,
 at men may find as
 much ease, and a great deal
 more generous contentment,
 they tyed up their inoli-
 tions to a severe discretion,
 in permitting them to
 anton in all the liberties of
 their little freedoms; How
 w live with a careful re-
 to their reputation,
 and fewer consider the im-
 portance of a publick aim;
 which neglects giving birth
 perpetual follies and affe-
 ctions, amongst other
 H 4 things

things that they prejudice
 Marriage suffers in the opi-
 nion of the indifferent or
 prepossessed. Any thing that
 is uneasie in Wedlock should
 be concealed, and support-
 ed with a gravity, that might
 cover it from the Spectators.
 No man should gad about
 with his complaints, which
 as they render his condition
 nothing the more easie, so
 they either importune, or
 divert those to whom they
 are communicated; it is
 tiresome to the serious man
 to be entertained with the
 follies of another; and it
 is Comical to the Frolick

that we receive no advantage by such fallies of great weakness and indiscretion; yet, though the satisfaction be so momentary, as the easing of a present grief, yet the revelation of such Matters spread in consolation, and remains long enough as a blemish in the condition; in this open item, has in some made an enormous progress; reproachful with the worst teachers the inclinations of Marriage; the first Espousals proclaimed that two were one, thereby to unite all in one commitment. The

gallant Pontius, tried her se-
 crisy on her wounded Agn-
 to make an experiment of
 her Sexes sufficiency, which
 whilst she bravely endured
 from the reproches is bid for
 fer'd, she returned the blessing
 scandal upon your Friend ship
 is of all other blessings the
 greatest solace to humane life
 and it is not only intimate
 but sacred in the Circle of
 Marriage. To communicate
 our troubles is to witness
 them, and the Philosophers
 advised us, not to eat the
 heart, which he meant our
 secret and concealed griefs.
 The great difficulty of found-

Men has appeared in hiding
 under ground their wealth,
 and this Age has in part
 reason to have the same care
 of their thoughts, which those
 of their Treasure: Man-
 kind were at first distinguish-
 ing into particular dwellings,
 that they should have sepa-
 rated Interests; and enjoy
 their contentments in an un-
 discovered shade; we call
 good humour to use all
 manner of freedom in our
 conversation; but how sel-
 dom is it found, that others
 will well interpret, what we
 well design, It were easie
 to lead this Current
 further,

further, but it would be no discretion to do it, and many times we decline a safe Conduct, because we fantastically love our own management. 'Tis moreover certain, they best see their errors, who discover them by their own light, And that not only, because we find our selves in some disorder to have them revealed; but also from a certain pride that puts us upon justifying all we do, and besides, all the dexterity of another, can never fit the *Perspective* to our own sight: But yet, there are somethings so remarkable

and

ble

ble, that there is no need
 of these Glasses to discover
 them, and there are some
 crimes committed against that
 Relation, which none will
 attempt to extenuate; that
 respect would be very inju-
 rious, that should forbear
 the censure of the great
 scandals that are hung upon
 Marriage: The inconti-
 nence of the Espoused, is
 that Crime whose Bowels are
 filled with many others:
 Neither can we readily say
 the influence it has had in the
 world; since it is evident
 that the sacredness of this
 Institution, has kept the
 Power

Power above us with respect upon our minds: Other things have (though unjustly) been accused of, Art, but the great Antiquity of Marriage declares its divine original. And it has received the same respect in diversities of Nations, and Religions, its Honour is so tender, that the least blot reproaches it; and besides, encourages the hardyness of after attempts, which take them for a President, who were the first Invaders of this separated state; by whose attempts not only that condition, which appeared

ed.

the principal foundation of
 the most excellent advanta-
 ges, became shaken and in-
 firm, but a way was open-
 ed to that liberty, which after
 made its incursions into all
 covered concerns. The
 sacredness of an Oath, and
 protestations uttered where
 Heaven and Earth were the
 Witnesses, became the trifles
 of Custom and design; which
 being made so by a wander-
 ing appetite, that crime be-
 came the encouragement to a
 freedom in other things.
 What assaulted the first in-
 nocence we very well know;
 and we have reason to be-
 lieve

lieve, that this Crime was one of the first that attempted the concitments of the world. And it is like to be that, which will give one of the last wounds it must feel before its ruine; this simplicity awaiting it with a strange desire, that it might owe the fate of its noblest affairs to its fineness alone, and no reproaches are keen enough for those, who have made these attempts, either from the solitary life, or within the sociable. The latter is the more prodigious instance of treachery and baseness, because he swears

the Heart and the Vitals;
 breaks that faith on which
 Marriage is built, and de-
 roys that fidelity which is
 much of its Essence, he
 gives it none of its reputa-
 tion, but layes it under the
 reproaches of Artifices and a
 uggle, he withholds others
 from applying themselves
 to it, whilst his practices
 persuade them, that it cures
 all appetites, nor practises
 any sincerity: He unworthi-
 ly suffers them to think, that
 is the Trap of youth, and
 a Gin in which Policy has
 caught our forward Inclina-
 tions: He Incourages in
 them.

them a fancy, that it is better
 to practice those Liberties
 before we vow, and assure
 then to loose an Innocence
 in our restraint: He that
 draws the Adulterer with
 these Colours, will soon
 find his amazement at so
 horrid a spectacle; and justly
 believe that nothing is known
 so odious in *Africa*, as this
 Monster of Society; since
 he that devours the sinceri-
 ty and the candour of any
 thing, shows a worse cruel-
 ty then the sucking of its
 Blood; and the generous at
 any time, loose their repu-
 tation with more regret then
 their

their lives: He has made
 Marriage to survive its Ho-
 nour, and to remain a
 scandalized Institution: He
 has put the affront on the
 first founder, and mocked
 the Limits of Nature; he
 has endeavoured to persuade
 the world by his experience,
 that Marriage is incapable
 of its designs, and that the
 flames of lust were to no
 purpose inclosed, whilst the
 appetite is as ungoverned
 even in that Condition,
 which was designed to cure
 as in a common enjoy-
 ment. We will only say
 further to these Persons, that
 they

they stand in the first Rank of Criminals, and that it had been better they had never come into the world than only to have lived to have done so much mischief in it; and that they must one day be called from their Graves, to be confronted with the injured Affairs of the universe, and not expect ever to sleep without the Spectres of those wounded Interests. And now Sir after we have been serious so long, it is agreeable to our youth, to divert ourselves a little, with the pleasant and the beautiful Scene

Love, it would be but
 something to loosen a
 and bound up to grave and
 ous considerations, by
 ebrating that Passion,
 hich is as well the Vigour
 the Imbelishment of Mar-
 age. But we are to remem-
 er, that the Theory which
 has been exhibited to Ages
 this Inclination, is very
 uch different from that
 actick, that has assisted the
 fairs of the world; and we
 ust go another course then
 hat we have already took,
 we will follow the Cur-
 nt, where the Poetick fancy
 led it: for those are the
 men

men who have pretended all along to extoll and refine it. Though the Discipline under which it was put by the Ancients, was very unlike to the modern Regulations. They made it seek the Society of Shepherds, and confined it to the Woods and the Mountains, it spent its time in weaving *Corollas*, and was busied in fashioning the address that merited the Garland. It appeared bashful and unsociable, shunning the guilt of ambition, with the noise and Artifices of Cities. It could divert it self with

telling the murmurs of a
 fountain, with reposing un-
 der the Mirtle, or in weav-
 ing about the Pine with a-
 morous Characters: It only
 signalized it self, in the victo-
 ries of May: and preserved
 no greater marks of its State,
 than the Tabor, and the Oat-
 scape: It valued it self upon
 sincerity, and knew
 no other bravery then to ac-
 company in Death the va-
 lued Object: It affected a
 mind as free from Artifice,
 as that beauty to which it
 bowed, and opened its Soul,
 as well as spent its Caresses
 in the Sun-beams, but this
 un

affected life, was yet judged
 too inglorious and solitary
 for it, by the briskness of
 after Poets, who believed
 that it should value less its
 innocence than its glory
 which made them lead it to
 those places where it might
 signalize itself in brave ex-
 ploits, their Predecessors
 had fashioned it too rude
 and simple, and had armed
 it with a Power that could
 purchase it no Renown
 whilst it was busied in a for-
 ry Chase, on the Law nes and
 the Mountains. They there-
 fore took it from so trifling
 a Discipline, they led it to
 Courts

Courts, and gave it the
 Command of Armies: They
 robbed it of the Habili-
 ments of a Shepherd, and
 changed the Oat-pipe for a
 Trumpet; they made it feel
 its vigour, and experiment
 the force of its Nature: A
 trust of its strength had
 made it live ingloriously, and
 they taught it what great
 things it was able to do;
 they made it not only to
 despise the Sheep-hook, but
 to make a trifle of Crowns:
 and it was necessary that it
 should accommodate it self
 with a disposition suitable to
 its enterprizes, which made
 I them

them exchange its sincerity
 and plainness, for dissimula-
 tion and hollow Caresses.
 Neither did it ill manage
 these endowments, if we
 may credit their Records.
 It brought in the faithless
Greek the fire that burnt *Ilium*
 to Ashes; and destroyed
 what was then the fairest
 Dominion of the Earth
 but yet it was not altogether
 intent upon one design
 whilst it stopped the Glory
 and Victories of *Achilles*, and
 sent him invisible Chains
 from a captiv'd Town.
 It triumphed over Regal
 Authority, Duty, and the
 care

are of a Patrimony in the
 violent *Scylla* *Eliza* left not
 only her Tyre, but a glorious
 life imperfect, whilst she be-
 came a Sacrifice to the Love
 of spruce *Aeneas*. It has gone
 through the Blood of the
 innocent to reach a Throne,
 where it might appear in
 Royal embellishments to
 its Object. It has mana-
 ged Intelligence in Glances,
 and communicated Plots
 by the Character of Looks:
 it has been a spie in Armies,
 and fashioned the Intrigues
 of Court. These their Po-
 etick fury reckoned brave,
 but they have not at the

same time withheld it from
 odd performances : They
 have made it leap Precipices,
 swallow Daggers, made Bro-
 thers burne for Sisters, and
 invaded the Fathers right of
 Love by the ardour of the
 Son. The inhumane Greek
 Bedded his *Sestian* Maid, in
 the cold Sheets of Water,
 and left them to consum-
 mate in the *Hellepont*, those
 loves he had so painfully ex-
 tolled, The fantastick Ro-
 man, made *Narcissus* burne
 for the shadow of himself,
 with so feirce a Flame, as
 could only be quenched in
 that Fountain where he view-
 ed

ed his Image. It has turned
 the Issue of Kings to Pilgrims,
 and transported the Daugh-
 ter of a *Cæsar*, to despise a
 brighter Immortality, whilst
 she affected the shade of a
Corinna. Nay, under these
 managers, Love has sought
 an Empire beyond the con-
 fines of Nature, and carried
 the remains of Rational be-
 ings, to Vegetables, and in-
 animate : It has turned Mor-
 tals to Fountains, to Trees,
 to Eccho's, and to Wall-
 flowers, preserving only in
 the note, the murmur, or the
 fragrant Character, the re-
 membrances of a former
 I 3 state,

state, the wantonness of the
 Poetick fancy, Have in these
 instances appeared very ex-
 travagant; though they de-
 sign'd in all, to shew the in-
 vincible Power of Love,
 whilst changing Natures
 could not change Desire.
 Neither could all the cruelties
 of a Metamorphosis dis-
 oblige a faithful Passion;
Eccho though grief has worn
 her to a shadow, preserves
 yet strength enough to an-
 swer to an amorous Call, the
Heliotrope yet links the pre-
 sence of the cruel Sun, and
 appears Melancholly, when
 he forsakes its Company. But
 yet,

et, after all these cruelties
 and strange Experiments, the
 Poetick fancy could not o-
 therwise atone for so much
 barbarousness, but by ob-
 liging Love to shave, and
 retire to the Cloyster: The
 reflection on so much Blood
 as it had spilt, could not but
 naturally produce in it so
 great a Melancholly; But
 yet here, whilst it pretend-
 ed to be a Devote, it proved
 a Monster; and could not
 forget the exercise of its for-
 mer Tyranny; It is true,
 it grew more Circumspect,
 but not less guilty; it ruin-
 ed equally though in a diffe-

rent way : It formerly invaded the life and the felicity, and now the Innocence and the Honour : It was more open and plain in the former attempts, but now it affected privacy and Arts : The world had felt enough of its force, and it therefore applied it self to Stratagem, and dissimulation, so long a War as it had he'd with humanity, had taught them to reinforce and fortifie themselves, and therefore undermined what it could not assault ; It took the habit of a Recluse, and it made many of their orders appear but *Fratricelles* ; It shewed

to

to the world a mortified
 look, and an Innocent Ha-
 bit ; But its Altars burnt
 with as brisk a Flame, and
 were thronged with lascivi-
 ous Votaries ; it grew weary
 of open cruelties, but strange-
 ly enamoured of those pri-
 vate sleights : Here with a
 show of great humility it
 devoured the portions of an
 excellent Virtue, and consu-
 med the Innocence of the
 world, with Fire disguised
 in Snow-balls : It whisper-
 ed Intrigues through the
 Monastick Grate, and made
 assignations at the foot of an
 Altar : it com'd amo-
 rous

rous sentences with Beads;
 and vigourated a lascivious
 Song with the Airs of an
 Anthem! It bore it self dis-
 guized into the Pallaces of
Magnificos, and practised dis-
 honour, whilst it proclaim-
 ed a Shrift: It resorted to
 the Chair of confession only
 to ease an amorous bosome,
 and demanded from the Fa-
 ther, not absolution but
 assistance: It kept Leigers
 in Republicks of Virgins, and
 held Intelligence with fide-
 lity and Honour: It was a-
 dored wherever it came, and
 prevented jealousy by the
 reputation of sanctity. But
 though

though the successes of Love
 were great in this shade ; yet
 it participated so much of a
 natural inconstancy , as to
 grow weary of so easie a
 prosperity , and left its re-
 cesses for more publick in-
 counters : Its Elogies here
 blunted the Poetick fancy,
 whose flights whilst they
 were happy were yet regular
 and confined ; they resolved
 to make it a mad Cap, that
 it might better serve the
 Rhiming reach , that has
 been so much the Idol
 of present Ages, here it ac-
 knowledged a Divinity, and
 shewed a respect to Piety
 and

and Altars : But they better affected its old Ethnick prophane-ness ; they liked it only when it was too vigorous for Earth, and too extravagant for Heaven : They gave it a power above Immortality, and fashioned it a quality that should *Parasmount* the Universe. And no sooner had they thus took it from the Cell, but they furnished it out a Knight Errant, and made it traverse Desarts, they inured it to hardship, and often forced it to take up its Lodgings at the foot of an Oak, or the Banck of a Rivulet, whilst it
 was

was fed, *Cameleon* like, on
 the Air of sighs and re-
 proaches, it exercised its cou-
 rage in hunting of Ravishers,
 in rescuing distressed Dam-
 sels ; in obtaining the free-
 dome of captiv'd Knights,
 and in putting an end to in-
 chantments ; whilst some-
 times again it affected the kil-
 ling of Dragons, the incoun-
 tering of horrid Visions ; and
 in appointing assignments in
 the dark apartments and Re-
 sidence of Spirits. But suc-
 ceeding Poets declined these
 Melancholy fancies ; whilst
 they took Love from that
 Discipline, and applied it to
 the

the Affairs of Grandeur and
 Society : They adopted it
 into the Family of Atoms,
 and made it the Captain of
 those Numerous Legions :
 They gave it an extravagant
 and unlimited Commission,
 and made it equal with that
 appetite which they believe
 to be the Genius of the Uni-
 verse ; and the Trace they
 have led it, has been agree-
 able to their Idea's , they
 have brought it on Theatres,
 to inspire those *Bravo's*
 whom they call their *Hero's* :
 They have thought fit that
 it should signalize it self only
 in prodigies of valour, and
 miracles

miracles of Council : It has
 bestowed a sufficiency on a
 single Person to rout Armies,
 to look Kings out of their
 Thrones, and to make Con-
 quests more facile then Ru-
 ine, and more easie then
 Traverses : It has baffled all
 the Stratagems of an Adver-
 sary, and wound about at
 pleasure the fidelity and
 courage of numerous Armies;
 all which are found but
 mean Exploits in the Records
 of their *Dryades*. But yet
 it does not always keep con-
 stant to the point of this
 elevation ; neither does it
 ever affect to be so Heroick ;
 it

it is often pleased to divert
 it self with meaner Actions :
 And to fashion the foole-
 ries of Comedy : It can
 make Experiments on the
 Groome, and is not averse
 from an Intrigue with the
 Landress ; It is pleased with
 the small incounters, and the
 fallacies of Mascarade , and
 delights in being Cajol'd, and
 in committing Errours : Its
 Principles speake it an Epi-
 cure, and declare its abhor-
 rance to be bound up to the
 high Rules of its Glory ,
 whilst it finds the sweetest
 Pleasures in the most extra-
 vagant Liberties; though it can
 so me-

sometimes despise Crowns,
 and toss them from one head
 to another, yet it is not al-
 ways pleased with so hardy
 an exercise: It can with as
 much pleasure, manage the
 designs of the Chamber-
 maid, and receive Proposi-
 tions from the brawny
 Clown, that greatness is un-
 easie to it, which stands a-
 bove the divertisments of
 ordinary men, and it now
 less affects Glory then good
 Humour. But though this
 passion appears active and
 vigorous, yet it seems
 but the effects of its Age;
 whilst it pleases it self in
 odd

odd and fruitless performances : It studies infinite researches, and the Punctilio's of a Genius weak and defective, it grows hard to humour, and is pleased with niceties and Criticisms, before things brave and substantial. The Poetick Lawgivers have formed it a State, and designed its observance ; but it is weary of that troublesome greatness, and they are forced to indulge it in little Frolicks, and childish diversions. It has reach'd its *Climaterical* Year, and forgets its Grandeur so fast, that all the lofty nonsense of its ablest

blest Ministers, cannot
 reserve it from a sottish
 orthargy, they have carried
 into the Magnificent Pallaces
 in Command, they have
 shew'd it the state it should
 reserve, and remonstrated
 with an Eloquence, more
 charming and refined than
 their Fathers ever knew; But
 see's not the force of these
 splendid Harangues; and
 its glorious managers must
 lament their misfortune, that
 they were born in an Age,
 when Love was so unable to
 comply with those precepts,
 which they are so capable
 of giving; So Rich and
 Magnificent

Magnificent a sence in the
 dayes of its Youth, had
 found it an abroad in Stars
 (from which some of its Dire
 Stars pretend it to have come
 and it had used no more
 these mortal divertisements
 But unhappy Poets, they
 practice in a time, when its
 Nature is unfit to comply
 with the Excellencies of
 their Art; and yet they are
 resolved not to be altoget
 ther unsuccessfull, they will
 accompany it to another
 world; Nay, they have
 sent their Poetick fancies
 before it, to prepare an E
 lizium, to furnish it with
 Grot

the Grotto's, with shady Groves,
 and Rivers ; They have
 resigned it an Eternal busi-
 ness, to repeat a past fide-
 lity, and the Triumphs of
 mortal incounters ; They
 have put it into the Arms of
 a perpetual Spring of Beau-
 ty, leaned it on a fragrant
 bosom, and under the in-
 fluence of bright and shining
 eyes ; wherein so sweet a
 success, it must entertain it
 self for ever with repeating
 its humane Atchievements ;
 ever if it find these Pleasures
 too luscious, they will
 permit it that variety in
 Heaven, which they allowed
 on

on Earth ; They have form'd
 it assignments in wither'd
 hollow Trees, and weary
 Traverses in Sooty Regions.
 They can imagine a perfect
 tranquility in nothing, and
 have fram'd their *Elizium*
 according to the Colour and
 Figure of its Atoms ; which
 they esteem but a happy
 thought, since it would dull
 so vigorous a Passion to be
 confin'd to one enjoy-
 ment : It would be tired
 with sitting for ever still ;
 and therefore they resolve
 it shall be perplexed in
 innumerable Labyrinths,
 that it shall grow Melan-
 cholly,

holly, and delight to behold the purple Current of Wound, that it shall encounter the *Spectres* of Jealousie, and fright it self with its own shadow, that shall Tilt in Tournaments of fancy, overthrow Rivals, and win Garlands : Thus have the Poets plotted an Immortal business to themselves in the managements of Love, But yet they will not leave its languishing Affairs upon Earth, though they accompany its lofty Genius to *Elizium* ; yet they

they will not quit its Earthly part, whilst it rots in dirty Actions, they will force a freshness from that withered Trunk, and persuade the world, that it is still as lovely, and as charming; as in all the vivacity and sweetness of its Life: But it is high time to leave them, when they grow so Extravagant. Thus Sir, have I given you a Prospect of the Poetical Image, which you will find very unlike to that which has the ascendant of Marriage: The
 busie

asie world has all along
 in below this Roman-
 ick Passion, and would
 ave nothing to do with
 Chimera's : Sometimes
 received a wound from
 these Fantafms ; But it
 endeavoured to cure it as
 as it could : They have
 often made it propositions
 for a Commerce, but they
 were always strange and
 extravagant : Sometimes they
 were too rude and simple,
 and of a Melancholly be-
 low its active Affairs : O-
 therwhile they were too
 Heroick, and flew above
 K their

their^v hummility. Its reality
 was too fordid, and its
 imbelishments altogether
 useless and Romantick; It
 therefore with great justice
 excluded them all from its
 conversation, and took those
 Idea's that were the pro-
 duct of Actions, and not
 of the Brain; It entertain-
 ed nothing above its Affairs
 and preserved those bene-
 fits in vigorous Actions
 whilst it refused to refine
 them by idle Harangues.
 It saw too plainly, in o-
 ther concernments, that
 their imbelished Theorie
 had


had ruined their practice,
 and therefore would not
 admit of the leisure to
 be flourish'd and extolled;
 it despised Artful and fine
 Records, whilst it only
 valued an active and vi-
 gorous tradition; which
 it has convey'd to this Age,
 in spite of all the attempts
 have been made upon it;
 and if it must be its Doom
 to suffer now, it will not
 only fall a Victim to the
 injustice and sottishness
 of barbarous men, but
 stand a mighty instance
 of the approaching Ca-
 K 2 tastrophe,

catastrophe of the world,
 which will even before its
 dissolution, grow too like
 that Chaos it must be at
 last; whilst all its virtue
 and glory will be darkened,
 and grow a place frequent-
 ed only by a savage ap-
 petite, in all its horrid
 shapes, a youthful Virtue must
 Traverse it with abhorrency,
 whilst it incounters so ma-
 ny frightful representations
 of vice, and the Ghosts of
 murdered Honours, and it
 must at the same time pre-
 serve it self from the *Cyrean*
Poetick Note, whose harmo-
 nious

gious blandishments will
 lead it upon the Precipices
 of ruine and dishonour, and
 are the great procures of
 the Prey for monstrous vices.
 And thus that frame which
 began with innocence and
 Marriage, will end with
 Crimes, and with the con-
 tempt of it, it rose with peace-
 ful and amicable virtue; but
 must fall with cruel and war-
 ring vices, and those Flames
 in which it shall suffer, will
 like burning Glasses, be a
 mirrour to shew the mon-
 strous attempts of this Age;
 The Atheist must behold
 with


with horreur a confutation
 of his bold Philosophy, in
 the Period of that world,
 to which he had given so
 fantastick a beginning, and
 the Poet, will with the same
 surprize, see it the Stage of
 that Tragedy, that will out-
 do all the dolours of his Dra-
 matick fancy.

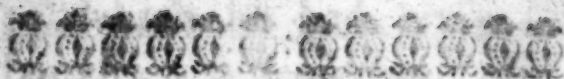
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ERRATA.

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r. to our. p. 52. l. 10. for appeared r. appeared. p. 78. l.
6. or presidid r. presided. p. 65. l. 4. for seeting r. meeting.
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or have the most r. have most.





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